

Something to read in the dole queue Sir?

NEGATIVE REACTION

Punk and Oi! Fanzine. Issue 12



Anthrax

D'CORNER BOYS

KUNT
AND THE
GANG

DAVE
HANN

THE DIPSO MANI ★ CS



It's been longer coming than a rocket up James Purnell's arse, but here it is, the final (?) instalment of the fanzine that refuses to behave. A bit of a struggle this time, and it's only thanks to Steve (Street Voice) and Steve Scanner that this whole goddamn thing isn't full of me complaining about something.

It's with great sadness I must announce I am officially MIDDLE AGED. I am now a member of the local CIU club (after lying to the doorman about being one for the last 20 years), I even bought something from GREENWOODS (a crombie, but still...) and the other night I watched a coked-up loon demolish the toilets in the Goose, and thought to myself "SCUM!". Age has mellowed me to the extent that whereas I once thought ordinary people who vote Conservative were lower than paedophiles, I now just think of them as CUNTS.

I can't walk into a clothes shop without "can I help you there?" (shop assistant slang for "I'm watching you, shoplifter") simply because they don't think it possible that I could want anything they sell for myself. I moan about student punk bands not being able to sing, and I feel great empathy with the pensioners that whinge in my fatha's Unite (OAP union) magazine.

Enough of all that. Let's look to America. They now have a bloke in charge who, so far, has done a good job - freezing the wages of the freeloaders in office and ordering Guantanamo to be shut down. Of course it probably won't last - otherwise he'll be bumped off - but it does make you worry when a country where a quarter of eligible voters are religious nutters now has a more positive set up than the UK. OUR only hope is a hung parliament where the Tories might not get to destroy the NHS and New Labour might not get their big brother state/ID cards. Democracy, don't you just love it....

Dawn's Reviews

No intro or Trev Watch (as he's become all sensitive in his old age and I was being too cruel.. apparently, so I will save it up in case he has a change of heart in the future). Hard times are upon us all, so try to enjoy what you can, when you can and look after each other. Dawn x

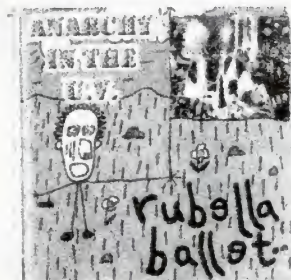


Joolz - SPIRIT STORIES

Joolz must be one of the busiest and creative women in the country: author, poet, artist, tattooist, and manager to name but a few of the things she crams in. One thing is for sure: whatever she does is done with passion and extreme professionalism, this collection of poems being no exception. Here are 11 pieces set to music, but not as raw as some tracks on Hex or Weird Sister. They are delivered in Joolz's unique, mesmerising style, ranging from subtle to savage and covering topics as diverse as chavettes misbehaving in a shopping centre to a tale of girls brought up by wolves. If you are a fan then you will get lost in the magic of this. 'Saddleworth' for me is the best track.. chilling, because you can imagine it all happening. Oh to have a fraction of the talent of this woman!

RUBELLA BALLET - ANARCHY IN THE UV

After years of wishing there was a compilation of Rubella Ballet material.. Overground has done it & it was well worth the wait. It incorporates material from the 2 LPs & EP as well as a couple of previously unrecorded tracks. Throwing a huge tin of neon paint over the anarcho scene, they screeched out strong songs that a lot of the time were much more listenable than some of their peers. A lot of the time I'm reminded of an early Siouxsie (a la Join Hands) when I hear Zillah's voice & hold dear songs like 'T' & 'Me' as my best 'pre menstrual - the world is against me' sing a long songs of my youth.. happy soul aren't I? Seriously, this is a wonderful jigsaw puzzle of tracks that put together give the perfect picture of this highly unique & powerful band.



NEW MODEL ARMY - FUCK TEXAS, SING FOR US

I like the idea of periodic live albums, especially when they capture memories of recent gigs. A varied collection of live tracks from last year, leaning towards the 'High' album. Recorded in UK, Europe and the USA (hence the audience chant title) the quality is good, the music is fine and I won't bore you with any more sycophantic NMAisms.. iust read the live aia review further on in the zine!



NO RETREAT is one of the few political books that isn't fucking boring, and here we have Steve from Street Voice website interviewing the co-author Dave Hann...

Dave Hann was a prominent Anti-Fascist during the late 70's / 80's who's work was mainly based around Manchester Anti Fascist Action. Fast forward a good few years on and I come across Dave through the Angelic Upstarts and through that I was sent a book he'd co-written with Steve Tilzey about the history of Anti Fascist Action in the UK. After reading that book I ran an interview with Dave and Steve Tilzey for London based site 'FFRUK'. Just recently I find Dave is now writing a new book and because he's an interesting chap with some good things to say I sent him another interview. This is what Dave had to say in reply to my questions.

First off how did you feel your first book 'No Retreat' went down?

Dave: I think its gone down really well. Its been nearly five years since the book was first published, and its still selling a few dozen copies every month. Funnily enough I was flicking through Mark E. Smith's biography the other day in a bookshop, and No Retreat gets a favourable mention in it. I think the most positive thing that has come out of it has been the letters and emails I get from anti-fascists in countries like Serbia, Poland and Russia, where the fascists are fairly rampant, saying how much the book has inspired them.

You obviously got a lot of criticism off both the far left and far right so how did you go about dealing with it?

Dave: I obviously expected criticism from the far-right. After all, a book detailing the cowardice, and lack of street-fighting prowess of the master race was hardly going to be a favourite bed-time read for your typical fascist. I've really enjoyed watching them whinge and moan about the book on Internet forums and discussion pages. The criticism from Red Action was also expected, because of the manner in which we parted company. The pure bitterness and bile of the criticism took me aback a bit, but in the end it just made me more determined to carry on writing. What was disappointing was the small number of so-called anti-fascists (London Class War mostly) who joined in the attack on me and Steve without ever taking the trouble to find out our side of the argument. I think anonymous slanders and personal abuse on Internet forums from people I've never met is cowardly, repellent and sinister. It says more about them than I ever could. These people would claim to be working towards building a fairer society, but if this behaviour is typical, then whatever they built would be little different from anything the BNP envisage.

It's also fair to say there were some independent folk who thought you glamorised the violence so any opinion on this?

Dave: Funnily enough, Mensi complained that the violence in the book was understated!! In other words he felt it didn't

portray the real levels of violence that actually occurred. I think the violence of anti-fascists should be put into context however. Fascists in Britain have been responsible over the years for the murders of Black and Asian people, the stabbing and maiming of political opponents, and the fire-bombing and nail-bombing of left-wing bookshops, gay pubs, etc etc. On the other hand, anti-fascists rarely went out tooled-up, and if they did they were usually armed with a blunt instrument rather than a blade. I think you have to have been under attack by fascist gangs to understand why non-violence could never work under those circumstances.

You're currently writing your second book which covers the history of Anti Fascism so can you give our readers any information about it?

The book is provisionally entitled, 'A Cause Worth Fighting For,' and it details the history of anti-fascism in Britain from the perspective of the people who were actually on the streets opposing the fascists. It goes right back to very first anti-fascists in the 1920's, and finishes at the turn of the century with the demise of AFA. Its all based on oral interviews with people who took part in the various battles at Cable Street, Olympia, Balls Pond Road, Red Lion Square, Lewisham, Waterloo, etc etc. A lot of the stuff in the book is brand new research, and I've uncovered some really interesting stuff on obscure anti-fascist groups like the New World Fellowship, the Blue and White League, and the Yellow Star Movement. The book has been an absolute pleasure to write and research, and I've met some wonderful people whilst writing it.

Have you a publishing date for the book yet?

Dave: Not as yet. Its very nearly finished, and I'm hoping that it will hit the bookshelves some time next year

Being as you wrote 'No Retreat' with your mate Steve Tilzey I would have thought you two would have been up for doing another together? Is this something he didn't want to do or did you feel you wanted to write this book on your own?

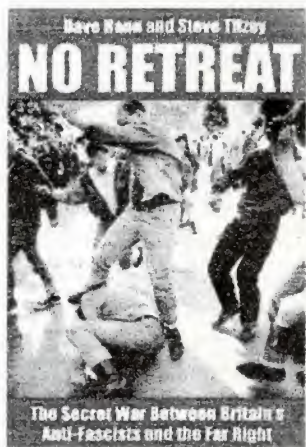
Dave: Steve wasn't really up for it. It was hard enough to get him to write his bit for No Retreat, and he actually lived through everything he wrote about then. I couldn't even begin to imagine how difficult it would be to persuade him to spend a few days researching some obscure anti-fascist group in a library or whatever, and then get him write up his findings and send them to me. The book would have to be printed on waterproof paper, because we'd all be submerged under rising sea levels by the time it finally came out. Steve would be the first to admit that he's not really a writer, but he has helped out with a couple of little things here and there.

The BNP have been keeping themselves busy but there's been almost no opposition to them. Do you think it's time for AFA to be re-launched to bring Anti-Fascists

DAVE HANN / NO RETREAT

together as one again?

Dave: We have been faced with this problem before in Britain, during the late 1960's and early 1970's for instance. The forces of anti-fascism were very thin on the ground, but as the fascist threat increased, so did the opposition, eventually culminating in the launch of RAR and the ANL, so there is still hope that something can be got off the ground. The difference between then and now of course is that a lot of the old communities based around the docks, the steel yards, the mines, factories etc, are broken up, and the traditional ties that bound these communities to the trade unions, the Labour Party and the left are gone. The Labour Party has abandoned them, the left are too busy with their endless cycle of marches, meetings and paper sales, and this leaves them easy prey for the fascists. This process boosts the BNP, while at the same time undercuts the supply of anti-fascist recruits. AFA has had its day. When Red Action dismantled AFA and formed the Independent Working Class Association (IWCA), they threw the baby out with the bath water, and this allowed the fascists the space to grow. Sadly, it is only now, a decade later, that they are beginning to realise their fatal mistake.



OK I know we have Antifa but that's largely anarchist based and probably wouldn't appeal to the average person on the street so who else is there?

Dave: There is no single organisation doing it at the moment. Just a few small grouplets doing bits and pieces of worthwhile stuff. Some of the community-based work done by IWCA for instance, if it was combined with militant anti-

fascism, and taken on board by some of the larger left groups would shake the situation up a bit. I think the IWCA has reached the limits of what can be done with a small number of dedicated, but somewhat paranoid and intolerant individuals, but their politics should not be discounted as readily as their personalities.

While I like to remain positive about Antifa it's hard to take them seriously at times when their members and the likes of Watmough and Wigan Mike just threaten each other on the likes of Indymedia?

Antifa seems to be making the same mistakes as some of the least politicised elements of AFA. For instance I've seen several "Antifa Hooligans" and "Antifa - Fighting the Fascists - What else ya gonna do on a Saturday" stickers around town recently, that make you shake your head in disbelief at their sheer stupidity and lack of political message. Can anyone tell me what the point of these stickers is? Do they think the general public will see these stickers and go, "Oh ok, I won't bother going to Asda this afternoon, I'll join a crew

of anarchists and get in punch ups with fascists instead." From the outside, Antifa (like a lot of anarchist groups), looks like a small clique of like-minded individuals, who all know each other, are roughly the same age, all dress the same, and have the same lifestyles and musical tastes, etc. There appears to be no attempt whatsoever to broaden their appeal to the general public as a whole. I could be wrong, but I've not seen them attack the BNP on a political level in working class communities, or attempt to offer their own solutions to the problems faced in those areas. There seems to be far too much emphasis on ambushing some of the smaller Nazi and bonehead groups, who, while they might prove occasionally troublesome, do not offer anywhere the same margin of threat as the BNP.

Would you agree there's no longer a Socialist alternative for working class folk any more on the streets of Britain?

Dave: I'd agree that there is no socialist alternative in Britain at the moment, and sadly I think things will get worse before they get better. This directly impacts on anti-fascism, as in the past, socialists have formed the backbone of many anti-fascist movements. I believe we will have to come to a situation in the future where desperation forces whatever disparate forces are left to unite on some commonly agreed platform, before we can start to move forward again. Hopefully the bitter struggles and disappointments in between will have burnt off the careerists, the egoists, the sectarians and the weirdos.

Can you see the BNP getting a couple of seats in parliament if there's no real opposition to them?

That's a very real possibility. Remember, its not so long ago that people would have said you were mad if you'd told them that the BNP would have 50 plus councillors. I think we're more likely to see an MEP, or a couple of MEPs first however. The economic downturn will only exacerbate the problem, although it might also open up opportunities for the left if they can stop their infighting for long enough to take advantage of them.

Did you hear that Simon Shephard from C18 is claiming political asylum in the U.S.A. since being found guilty of race hate charges in the UK? What did you make of that?

Dave: I didn't hear about that. Its typical of the contradictions that lay at the very heart of fascist politics however.

Personally I think it's a cop out with American and British Govts bailing out some of the banks so why do you think people just sit back and accept shit like that?

Dave: People feel disenfranchised from the political system. They see very little difference between the main political parties, who are all in the pocket of the major capitalists, and they feel powerless to effect change, which is exactly what the Govt wants. They see over a million people march

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through London in an effort to stop their country going to war, which you think might have given any government pause to contemplate, but their voices are completely ignored and the war goes ahead regardless. People feel their voices aren't being heard. So at the one end you get low polling returns as people despair at the system, and at the other end you get people voting for the BNP, some for racist reasons, but others because they are seen as not being part of the establishment.

Moving from politics do you still get down FC United?

Dave: As often as I can, which is not as often as I'd like.

How are they doing as a football club?

Dave: After three consecutive promotions, they appear to have hit a plateau this season. Crowds are holding up reasonably well though, but the Development Fund, which was started in order so that the club can buy/build their own ground still needs your pennies. Incidentally, a couple of seasons ago, the BNP tried to muscle in on the club, but they were sent packing by anti-fascist FC fans and ordinary supporters. The final straw came when the entire Manchester Road End started chanting "You can stick your BNP up your arse," at them. The whole club has been built by ordinary working class people, and just shows what can be achieved when people have a sense of purpose and a commonly identified goal.

Apart from your job and writing your book what else does Dave Hann like to do?

Dave: Well I used to coach a youth football team until last season, which was reasonably successful (the boys won a couple of trophies and once went a whole season undefeated), but that has come to a close now, although I'm still involved with my son's new team. I'm also involved in a couple of local campaigns, one to stop a massive Tesco's redevelopment in town, which will put dozens of small shops out of business. These days, if I see a campaign that I agree with, I'll help out in whatever way I can, no matter who initiates it. Apart from that, I like to do absolutely nowt. Lazy git that I am.

Anything you'd like to add?

Dave: I know this interview has tended towards pessimism, but people need to stop picking pointless arguments on Internet forums, and get out there and start looking at ways to unite around a common goal. Undercutting the BNP's potential base of support, by forcing them out of the areas where they have become embedded, and presenting people with a viable socialist alternative would be a good place to start.

Thanks to Dave for doing the interview. There's nothing in the interview I couldn't argue with. Fair play to the man and when his new book comes out please be sure to check it out. Street

Voice will be running a full feature on the book so there'll be no excuses not to pick it up.

Cheers to Steve for getting the interview and to Dave for thought provoking answers.

NEW MODEL ARMY

Live - Sage Gateshead - 16th Dec 2008

Trev really is softening, not only did he pay £30 for us to go (xmas pressy) but agreed to go to a gig at an 'arty farty' venue. He even managed to not take the piss too much. Mind you when he saw how many of the local gang were there he felt a bit more comfortable. It didn't get off to the best start with the lack of drinks choices, offensive prices and the previously unrealised rules of only the first few hundred through the door were able to stand downstairs, made even worse by being told that no one could take their drinks upstairs! You can picture Trev being very 'vocal' about this! It seemed surreal seeing the 'colourful' punters beforehand suspended on the clinical balcony in the huge space like pod. The gig hall itself reminded me of Shakespeare's globe theatre, quite cosy for a gig of that size and housing a good sound.



This was a warm up gig for the annual European December mini tour and the band and crowd were well up for it. It's always good to see a varied mix of old and young and real enthusiasm showed for the new material (enough of the Mulligan and O'Hare snipes Trev) Nice to see Joolz dancing in the crowd too!

With a back catalogue as varied and

large as this one and a recent new studio album to promote it's hard to please everyone. Some have the view that it should be a pre Christmas 'greatest hits' affair and at the other end of the spectrum there are those who want as obscure a mix as possible. I must say I lean toward the latter and would rather hear some of those tucked away classics than extended versions of 'Vagabonds' and 'No Rest', but I'm not complaining. It kicked off with the eternally topical 'Here Comes the War' There were 5 songs from the latest 'High' album (for me the best being 'Nothing Dies Easy') and a couple of new songs destined for the next one.. 'Today is a Good Day' stood out as the catchiest. 'Oceans Rising' from Justin's solo album was a welcome surprise. Personally I enjoyed 'Whitecoats' and 'Island' the best and I think it was fair to say that the last 3 decades were well represented. The encores closed with the classic Green & Grey which always leaves a lump in the throat. It was a fitting end to a top gig.

There was some debate amongst the diehards afterwards that the live gigs did not hold the same sparkle as the 80s. Well, time and people move on and NMA have evolved and matured naturally over the years rather than trying to preserve what defined them back then. The band sounds as strong as ever and the strong musicianship sticks out a mile. The perfect symmetry of the 3 piece powerhouse and the agile human pyramids were breathtaking, but 20+ years on we see an a meaningful, matured band that has all relevance and authenticity of any 'serious' band of the day.

Shortly after this gig on 23rd December, New Model Army's long serving manager Tommy Tee died suddenly of a heart attack. Recognised as the backbone of the band and a truly outstanding person he will be sadly missed by all who knew him. RIP. Dawn x

Gimp Fist are one of the few Oi bands around these days that boast both suss AND anthems. Darlington is probably most famous for Major Accident and Last Rough Cause and if you take both those bands at their best, Gimp Fist sound something inbetween. They have done endless amounts of small gigs around the North, only ever really getting the attention they deserve after stints at Rebellion in B/pool and Durham punk festival. Check out their self released "One Tribe" and the great new one "Our Time Will Come" on German label Sunny Bastards.



Where on earth did ya get the name GIMP FIST, how did you's all meet, and were you in any other bands beforehand?

Chris came up with the name, he saw it on a card in a phone box in London advertising a phone sex line & thought fuck it that's the name for us. Once heard never forgotten & with us all having an unhealthy obsession with porn (not that Jonny & Michael will admit it) it seemed fitting.

We met when Jonny & Michael joined a Ska/Punk called Chowder Boy that Chris & some other guys had formed. Previous bands of no note really except Chris did a small stint for Major Accident in the 80's.

Best and worst gigs? Has everyone you've played with been sound? No attitude problems etc?

There's no good or bad gigs, it's what you make of them. Even when the attendance is poor, we still have a good time. If there's 10 people or 200 at a show you always do the best show you can.

The majority of bands we have played with have been really great people, some more than others, but no attitude problems.

You got the graveyard slot at Blackpool, after COCK SPARRER when punters were absolutely knackered – how did that go down and what was your opinion of the whole weekend? See any good bands etc?

It was better than we were expecting for the time of night & that we were up against the Subhumans as well. We had about 250-300 in the audience & got some very good

comments from the organizers & people who had just seen us for the 1st time, so hopefully we'll be back next year.

Michael probably saw the most bands of the weekend, but we don't know if he was sober enough to remember! Chris spends most of his time networking & catching up with bands & people we've met along the way, so never gets much chance to check bands out.

How did you get the deal with Sunny Bastards who I imagine are quite a big label as they released "Skinhead Attitude" DVD. Are you happy with the new CD? It was through people we meet when Michael & Chris were over in Germany last October with Red Alert. They became life-long friends with Lars & Uli of Hasscontainer & the Urban Rejects who were the tour support.

When we went over in May this year to play Gimp Fists 1st European show in Ulm we meet Down The Drain who became friends with instantly, so with Down The Drain, Urban Rejects & Bovver Boys being on Sunny Bastards & our friends they & the Hasscontainer boys brought us to the attention of Chris @ Sunny Bastards. Anyway she must have liked what she heard & offered us a deal. We are very happy with the new CD & the reviews it's getting. We have to say a big thanks to Sunny Bastards for giving us a chance, we couldn't have wished for a better or a harder working label & to all our friends in Germany for supporting us, without all these great friends we'd still be stumbling around the UK looking for a deal. Thanks Guys.

Darlington is surrounded by once thriving pit villages that are now full of despair and hate (many even voting BNP, fucking hell!) – is this the kind of thing "War On The Streets" is about....the total hopelessness of life under New Labour?

"War on the Streets" was not written from a political viewpoint, but more of a snapshot of what's going on in society today. We are not pro or anti government, yes they could be to blame for a lot of what's going on, but a lot of it is down to human nature. There's always going to be arrogant, disrespectful wankers out there no matter which government is in power.

What are the ideas/story behind these songs–

a) "Jimmy" – was one of the 1st songs we wrote for Gimp Fist. It's a story based around people & bands that ditch their punk roots in search for fame & fortune. Not good.
b) "Whatever Happened" – We had some lyrics that we were working on for a reggae song which never materialised. Anyway we went back to them some time later & Whatever Happened came along. The song follows a similar theme to War On The Streets & tries to define the reasons why this country is in the state that it is.

c) "Just Another Country" – It's about how you can get disheartened living in this country. People still go on &

on about previous triumphs like the 66 World Cup to try & justify that we're any good. We need a reason to be proud of our country again & fly our flag without being called a racist or getting locked up.

What do you all do outside the band? Are you workshy fops or wage slaves?

Jonny works for a Mickey Mouse outfit called the ambulance service on the biddy bus as Chris calls it. He'd probably call me a work-shy fop, but he's only jealous. Ha Ha!

Michael is a Hod Monkey! He spends all his time building houses (or not) in this day & age. Nothing too taxing on his brain fortunately for him!

Chris gave up on gain full employment after what seemed like a life time working for the Royal Mail. He now works full-time running Gimp Fist, but just call him a work-shy fop, he couldn't give a fuck!



"Working Class" has the line "you can knock us down but we'll keep coming back" - isn't that a bit optimistic given the political situation (ie choice of 2 Tory parties)?

When things are looking their bleakest, that's when the working class stand together & become strong. Then the powers that be will have to sit up & take notice.

Finally tell us about some of the songs on the new CD, what they're about etc...

The new CD is a collection of songs drawn from personal experiences, like when some right-wing skinheads (who should be old enough to know better) threatened to put Jonny in hospital ("Don't wanna be like you"), to songs inspired by recent events such as the war in Afghanistan ("More war stories").

There's songs about struggle & despair & finding the strength to rise up when all around you falls apart ("Fighting to survive"). There's a cover version of a great song by Swedish Oil Band Perkele & even a love song inspired by The Pyramids-Skinhead Girl ("Skindeep"). What more could you ask for! Ha Ha.

BOOK REVIEWS

MATT O'CONNOR - *Fathers 4 Justice*

Picked this up in the library and I was struck by the brilliantly sarcastic tone of the author who manages to take the piss out of even the most serious situations. Matt splits up with the mother of his children and although he and his ex kissed and made up in the end, he decided to start a movement to try to make politicians change the law to offer mediation rather than bitterness, resentment and a huge legal bill to dads who want to see their kids. Now none of that would be very interesting in itself, but throw in some high profile stunts and outrage from the establishment and you have an intriguing tale like something from a Bond movie. If you thought M15/special branch (or even the FBI) spent all day following mad mullahs, you'd be wrong. The thought of our security services ringing up someone who organises slapstick stunts involving people dressed as Batman and Robin in the middle of the night with death threats is somewhat bizarre, as is the nations media spending a fortune paying people to infiltrate, subvert and bring down the F4J movement. They even went so far as to pay pub drunks to get shitfaced and sent them over to start trouble at F4J meetings, and pay scantily clad models to flirt with Matt, hoping for a tale of lecherous *unfatherly* behaviour. Even if you think 'absent' fathers are all wife beating bastards with all the love for their offspring of a nun at a 1930's catholic boarding school, this is still a fascinating read. Apart from the appendix of documents taken from the F4J website, this is one of those books you can't put down.

ROY ARCHIBALD HALL - *To Kill and Kill Again*

Despite describing himself as more of a monarchist than an anarchist, Roy Hall has caused more grief to the rich than anyone out of Class War. His MO is to befriend them (usually as a butler) and fleece them good & proper, using all kinds of tricks from cutting keys to switching jewels for fakes. The author is in and out of prison like a yo yo - being only one of 3 people in the country the old bill know to be able to pull off such crimes tends to increase the chances of being caught, and Roy's audacity puts him in even greater danger, whether it's trying to fence some jewels to the son of his last victim or trying sell stolen documents to the Russians! You can only marvel at his prison escapes; he even escapes from hospital whilst armed police guard the door. He blows a pub safe whilst the landlord is in bed, by befriendng the guard dog with chunks of meat. A truly devious character, this stretches to his sex life - he will literally shag owt that moves from blokes to old women (if it means gaining their trust). One woman was broken hearted to find after 18 months of courtship he had a gay lover he was trying to bust out of prison - but not only that, he was deeing another woman to keep her sweet to deliver goodies to his incarcerated friend!

Even odder is the fact that ¾ the way through, no killing has taken place, but this changes when his gift of a Jag to his gay lover as a coming out of prison present backfires when he is killed in a road accident. It's then - with the author dehumanised - that the killing begins. Great book.

GANGSTER - John Mooney

Biography of Irish gangster John Gilligan. I dunno if it's cos I've read books on the murder of Irish journalist Veronica Guerin, and the daughter of gangster Martin Cahill, but there was an air of

familiarity about this and it's not helped by the journalistic writings of the author that pad it out with needless facts and figures.

Gilligan thought himself untouchable, he built a huge stable complex worth millions for his missus, had the usual luxury house etc with no visible means of paying for it except crafty money laundering scams centred around gambling (buying loads of chips at the casino, then cashing them all in again in form of a cheque, creating the impression he'd "won" it all - or doing similar things at bookies). The Irish powers that be finally act after he chins Veronica

Guerin (who knocked on his door asking questions) whilst simultaneously Interpol investigate his shenanigans in Amsterdam casinos. Many believe he ordered the murder of Veronica Guerin, and this is also covered in the book. Not bad, just lacking personality and humour.

PETE HAYNES- God's Lonely Men

The Lurkers - Dumb Ramones clones? This, like Arthur's book, will prove that idea wrong. Both great writers, with a brilliant way of words. The late 70's are seen as some golden age by many but Esso takes us on a reality check here. The band were sent all over the country playing what he calls "misbookings" - farces with a hostile, arrogant landlord, questionable (or non-existent) audience; gobbing, violent arseholes. He pours scorn on the movers and shakers (such as The Bromley Contingent), and has particular cynicism for middle class politicians, be they 70's students or early 80's anarcho types. Although to be honest the country is in such a state now I would welcome even middle class protesters. Anyway, like Andy Blade(Eater)'s book, he barely has a good word to say about anyone, although he does stand up for the underdog, the loners who found a home with The Lurkers, even one bizarre character who fulfilled his ambition to arm wrestle the band for sexual kicks!

Some great tales and observations - trendy heterosexual couples singing along to "Glad to be Gay" and Tom Robinson pulling up in a flash motor with fit bird in tow. The endless touring; bomb scares in Belfast and hotel fire in Stranraer; you know this isn't one of those glossed over spin doctored books when he admits to rescuing his Bullworker rather than waking up a sleeping Pete Stride!! The Northern cities with venue owners like something out of a 70's sitcom. The violence - Esso once getting such a hiding that when he tried to get into the after gig party, Pete Stride didn't even recognise him so the house owner waved him away! Being sent to Alabama to record the 2nd LP, forced to spend months in a dry county where the only people selling beer are the church, police and KKK (who are all interlinked) - a place where almost everyone's opening line is "what's your nigger problem like?" and ads on TV are interrupted with a local authority message "get out and fight communists" !!

MARK STEEL - What's Going On?

Just like the other Mark (Thomas), Steel is one of the few left wing writers with a) a sense of humour and b) a grasp of plain English. This book is a funny as fuck trawl through mid life crisis that goes off on many political (but funny) tangents. All kinds of amusing stories here from meeting Bob Monkhouse (a fan surprisingly!) to offers of various dire TV appearances and piss ups attended by the rich and powerful. Plenty of stuff on lying politicians, The SWP, the Iraq war, George Galloway, the class divide etc. All of which is usually told in a very boring way, but not this time, thanks to a healthy dose of sarcasm. It is also very educational as he gives you the statistics the establishment would rather you not hear ie in 2006 the richest 54 people in Britain had an income of 126 billion quid, out of which only 0.14 percent was paid in tax! Meanwhile the left

run around like headless chickens, at war over daft things like George Galloway and on one occasion having 2 rival meetings on the same night. At one of these a speaker slagged the other group for booking a "bourgeoisie middle class Green Party speaker" unaware that they too booked him and he was on next! He also gives a good explanation as to why once decent people sold their souls and went on to lick Blair's arse. But real life is never too far away and even mundane exploits like flat-hunting are told with such hilarity and natural descriptive talent it keeps you gripped until the bitter end. Best book I've read in a long time.

MAZMER MAHOOD- Confessions of a Fake Sheik

News Of The World reporter Mahood began his career with an expose of a friend of his family, so you know that morals are never gonna be high on the agenda. But like any good (ie bad) tabloid journalist, the bloke simply couldn't give a fuck who's lives he ruins or how he does it. Everyone from Jerry Springer to Eastenders actress Michelle Collins is set up and he even has the nerve - for those who plead with him at least - to pretend he's doing them a favour by leaving out the odd fact or two. And as you can imagine the tales are peppered with references to 'scroungers' and 'illegal immigrants'. And if you want another reason to avoid it, it's on Harper Collins, Murdochs publishing wing.

A BOY CALLED GRAHAM-Graham Gaskin/James MacVeigh

It's unlikely I would've picked this up as it looks like one of those "tortured childhood" books publishers have recently targeted women with, and I suppose that's what it is to a certain extent. Graham faced the usual care home horrors before being farmed out by social services to a horrible bastard who was every bit the sadistic paedophile as those who ran the homes. Even worse, when Graham tried to do anything about it, the establishment closed ranks and the whole thing dragged on for years. This left him with total hatred for Britain, which to him now became the Pig Nation. There begins an adult life that takes in Denmark, Germany, Russia, China, Hong Kong, The Phillipines and North Korea, armed only with street savvy and false passports. When he murders a well connected pimp he becomes a marked man and has some great tales to tell, whether it's being chased by armed assassins through a hotel complex or beating another one half to death with a tin of pineapple chunks. It is peppered with excellent political observations which only adds to your despair when you read the tragic ending. Great read.

Negative Reaction back issue offer!!

I still have a shitload of the big 25 year celebration issue which features 4Skins, Oi Polloi, Attila the Stockbroker, Riot 77 mag, Murder Junkies, Sons of Bad Breath, Jonny Dongel plus HUGE review section and loads of articles etc. This is almost twice the size of the issue you're reading!

If you're in the UK send £3 pay pal to trevhagl@hotmail.com or £2.50 to T Howarth, 20 New Front St, T/Lea, Stanley, Co.Durham, DH9 9LY.....and get the 25 Yr celebration issue PLUS No.10 which features **Bernard O Mahoney, The Fiend, Toxic Ephex, Tranzmitors, 999** etc!!

You also get old zine HAGL with pages missing but it still has Cock Sparrer & Attila the Stockbroker etc

Unite The Scene – Where's this Heading?!!

In recent times I've noticed that many Street Punk bands are playing the 'Unite The Scene' card though what I fail to see is what they're trying to unite in the first place?!! The Punk scene in the UK may not be healthy but I fail to see where it's divided as most bands tend to play gigs together whether they be Street Punk, HC, Screamo or whatever.

I know the scene is a bit flat on it's arse at present but that's more to do with apathy and the big festivals that are killing the scene. You can't unite something if the vast majority can't care less one way or another!

What I do see and is rather worrying is bands playing the apolitical card so they can play with bands that have right wing leanings? Bands who are closet Nazi's or sound like Margaret Fucking Thatcher.

Is all this 'Unite The Scene' bollocks a ploy to get these right wing bands through the back door in hope that they are going to be accepted?

Why would you want to unite with bands who secretly play the race card? Fascism sucks and history proves that. Who in their right minds would want to see a Fascist Govt in the UK. Those folks must be off their fucking heads.

Then there's the right bands who want to see the likes of Margaret Thatcher and her government back? Who in their right minds would want to re-live Thatcher? The woman was scum. She tried to kill off the spirit of the working class by destroying those industries associated with the working class. Remember the Miners for starts? Remember what that evil hag and her govt did to them?

To the 'Unite The Scene' brigade do you really think that people like me are going to unite with the likes of Fascists and fucking Tories? You must be off your heads! I'd rather unite with a fucking dog turd if the truth be known!

I know the scene needs a good kick up the arse but fuck me we don't have to lower ourselves to unite with Nazi's and Tories for fuck sake! If you want to be part of their scene why don't you fuck off and be part of theirs instead of playing the 'Unite The Scene' card as it's fair to say there's many people out there who feel like me.

Our scene don't need to be polluted with right wing shit and it should never be part of the punk scene those right wing ideals have nothing to do with the spirit of Punk Rock! Take your unity card and shove it where the sun don't shine! From Steve DIY

Rob from Lancs write to mourn the loss of PUNK & OI IN THE UK and asked if anyone knew of another site that did a gig guide. But fear ye not, Sean from Oi Warning told me it was back up and running again on -

www.ukpunkandoi.com

Punked to Death

Having survived this years Blackpool, and about another 1000 other fucking gigs, I still have to stifle a laugh everytime I see a mohican stuck on the top of some old fat wrinkly grandad's head. Don't get me wrong, each to their own and all that but I really do feel like tapping them on the shoulder and saying 'excuse me, do you realise you look a total cunt'. At Blackpool there seemed to be whole punk families staggering around like they've just crawled out of a pikeys arsehole. There's something quite unsettling about seeing mohicaned 10 years old kids wearing 'too drunk to fuck' t shirts. What really makes me puke is that everyone seems to try and 'outpunk' each other, and well....they all end up looking the fucking same. What happened to the individuality and thinking for yourself DIY punk values? Its been washed away in a sea of leather jackets, BO, and Jeremy Kyle mentality. These punk festivals are turning into conventions for the absurd, there seems more interest in the overpriced memorabilia than the actual bands that are playing. I was speaking to Esso from The Lurkers (and now a rather portly gentleman) about this, and he agreed saying that it did seem to have a touch of the 'stamp collectors convention' about it, and that most bands were only here (Blackpool) to make money and flog their stuff. At this point I would like to add, Esso kept shoving his book into my face during our brief chat, I told him that if I ever needed a wonky table propped up I'd know where to come! There is one image of Blackpool that stays in my mind, and that was looking into an expensive restaurant's window, and seeing about 20 odd mohican heads politely tucking away at their sirloin steaks....hhmmmm hardly the fodder for a revolution unless they were all going to do a bunk when the bill arrived. So....mohican – king punk, political activist? Or just some cunt who wears a Mohawk like a suit? I'll let you decide.

Justin 'on the outside looking in' Stance.
Openshaw 2008.

The rise of Emo/Screamo/Paedo

Emo eh? Where the shit did it come from? Well, back in 1995, some woman in America (probably) was crying himself to sleep after the last of the birds in his neighbourhood told him to 'fuck off and grow some balls'. Anyway, him and his 'mates' i.e. the only 3 people in town that DIDN'T HATE him formed a band called 'We feel sorry for fat kids' and mixed the whiny sounds of Indie bands with vocals of a crying woman. Thus, emo was born.

The thing is about emo is (without sounding like I'm in my fifties) that I 'Don't get it'. Since when did growing girl's hair and crying every five minutes become alternative? Surely that's what all Mum's want? Next they'll be wearing 'I love Princess Diana' t-shirts or summat. I remember being at school when my Mum said 'Why don't you let your hair grow long, it looks so nice'. I immediately put her in hospital and shaved my head straight away.

The even odder thing about emo is that emo couples look the same! It's like fucking yourself! I mean, I know I'm a looker, but I ain't down with that shit. I wonder if wearing really tight jeans and looking like one of the cunts out of Spandau Ballet really makes your nob drop off, only to be replaced by a vagina? Somebody tell the transsexual community! It'll save 'em loads of money.

It's just people (well, people who don't know shit), seem to tie 'emos' or 'emus' as I call them, to the punk community. FUCK OFF! It's like some sort of weird religious extremism, where everyone looks the same and the women cover their faces with giant fringes. I bet Ian Paisley is jizzing in his armchair as we speak. Next they'll have orange style marches, with the streets closed off so emus can openly cry in the street and fuck each other in public.

Also, why do so many of them like The Misfits? I almost feel dirty listening to them these days. It's wrong, like being German and being funny. The only solution is intense Clockwork Orange style therapy. Strapping the buggers to chairs and forcing them to listen to good punk bands. Once the 400 hours of music has finished, give the cunts a haircut and set them on their way.

Letters * Letters * Letters * Letters * Letters

Imagine a 6 foot tall geezer in a wig singing karaoke style over a casio keyboard backing track like a warped children's entertainer on Blackpool pier, with a crowd composed entirely of sick bastards. Fucking great night! Check out the man's "Men With Beards" video on You Tube which is quite possibly the funniest thing I've ever seen. A twisted South Park style semi animation featuring Peter Sutcliffe, Bin Laden, Jesus, and even Whispering Bob Harris, a voice so soft, murdering children up in his loft - accompanied by nuts knife graphics and lots of blood!!!). If the Daily Mail saw any of this they would have enough for a year of campaigning. An interview HAD to be in order so cheers to Kunt for the answers!



For those of us who haven't seen your My Space page, tell us how it all began...

I started Kunt and the Gang after a night up the pub when it seemed like a really good idea to start a band called Kunt and the Gang.

You went down great in Newcastle but have you played anywhere where the crowd didn't get the joke? And if so what happened?

There have been a few nights when I have been concerned about making it out of the venue without getting hit in the back of the head but it's usually individuals within the crowd who you have to keep an eye out for. I was assaulted on stage at a Christmas gig in London a couple of years ago by a drunk man who picked up my mic stand and came at me with it. The mic stand was wrapped in fairy lights so it felt like a very festive assault.

Any problems because of the name (booking gigs etc) ?

Yep. It's always fine if people approach me for gigs but I have stopped calling venues for gigs because the first thing the ask is, "What are you called?" and when you tell them it's normally followed by the dial tone.

Who did the "Men With Beards" video? Work of genius! I see some boring bastards left derogatory messages on You Tube.....Have you had any hate mail from religious loons etc...?

I did the Men With Beards video myself. Diddling around with little animations like Dave Lee Travis jumping out the bushes with deeley boppers and a hardon have been a great source of amusement for me!

The only time I had any hate mail off religious loons was when I had set up a Barry George Myspace site and they thought it was actually him. I had this god botherer called Judith keep sending me poison emails and I just kept replying with light-hearted responses to her rantings which made her even more mad!



When I saw you everyone got given a free Barry George mask and was asked to pose (football pin up style) for a photo. How did this turn out and what

will it be used for? Any other stunts you can tell us about?

Hearing that said aloud makes it sound like some kind of crazy acid trip. It was just something the promoters dreamt up and I wanted a photo for me own personal records. Everyone who has seen that photo and wasn't actually at the gig thinks it is one of the most surreal things ever!

Any good tales to tell us from your recent tour? I see at the toon gig support was Brian from Campus Tramps/Penetration doing his one man rockabilly band. What other 'unusual' support acts have you had?

There was a high turnout of beardies at the Southampton gig and the master of ceremonies managed to arrange them into a kind of Avenue de Beards, which I was to march through to my intro music (Glitter's Leader of the Gang). I stomped through, arms aloft, to rampant cheers from the crowd and as I mounted the stage I stacked it over the monitor, went arse over tit and tipped beer all over myself. Luckily some good fellow was filming it and put it up on Youtube for everyone to see.

There have been some weird and wonderful supports, some fucking dreadful and some really good. One of my favourites in a band in Nuneaton called None Of Your Fuckin Business who are like a young Macc Lads in training!

KUNT AND THE GANG

Have you had any media attention (good or bad- especially bad!) ?

The best/worse piece I had was a full page article in the Basildon Echo with the headline 'Singer's Vulgar Name Sparks Outrage' in which they didn't even mention the name but talked about the fuss one of my posters had caused in a pub window, 200 yards from a junior school. It was a very proud moment for me because they had a picture of the poster with 'Censored' over the band name but had left my headline "Songs about playing with your private parts... and more"!!

You have some very tasteful merch- Fred and Rose badge set, and t-shirts with "Fucksticks! Mother's Cunt! Fucksticks!" on em. Any more in the pipeline?



Yep, there's a world of juvenile smut here just waiting to be unleashed! People can come and check it all out for themselves at www.kuntandthegang.co.uk

Ta to Kunt for the interview and keep yourself amused

for hours on www.myspace.com/kuntandthegang - videos, games and other stuff!

WORK ETHIC

Not sure what putting this straight after a bloke who spends all day wanking tells you, but what the hell. I cannot claim to be the big punk rebel because I've never even thrown a day's sickie (apart from taking the last week off from the community programme scheme in the 80's when turning up would've meant being thrown in the river - the joys of working with drug dealers and murderers!). And I've never been one of the punk pedantics who cried for the blood of Gene October for wanting the "Right to Work" (this was, after all, 1977, when work actually *paid*). No, I am basically reliable, unlike many of my mates who can't even be trusted to turn up for a piss-up (something I will never understand). But neither am I a naïve pushover. You could say my mantra is "a fair day's work for a fair day's pay" - a "fair" slogan you'd think, although in this day and age I'd probably be called a communist for that. And that's the trouble. Society has gone that far to the right, anyone not working themselves to the edge of a nervous breakdown is deemed by someone, somewhere to be a

workshy fop. The art of 'crawling' is fostered by devious bosses who think that if they manage to cultivate a few brown-nosers, *decent* workers (those with a bit of honour and self respect) will be obligated to do that little bit more too. I have met umpteen halfwits who think they ARE the boss. One of their catchphrases was "get your finger out!" - the way to deal with these is, of course, to get TWO fingers out, as I have done many a time. And did they thank me for it? Working through tea breaks, doing unpaid overtime, their one ambition in life to be supermarket supervisor. But the bosses aren't stupid. If these people will stab their own workmates in the back, what else are they up to? What are they hiding? Well, for starters one of em was having it away with £50 out of the till every week!

The government have done a bit to combat the recession (unlike the Tories would've done if they were in power) but 2+ million people chasing 600,000 crap jobs (treat em mean to keep em keen) must still not be good enough odds



for them so now they are going to force single parents, the sick and disabled to join the hunt too. If there was a way of raising the dead I'm sure they'd bring them into the equation too... who knows, with the appliance of science maybe they could clone an arselicker...

(I would make a joke about pensioners being forced to work for their money but you can't joke where THIS lot's concerned - I now won't retire till I'm 67. A survey in Glasgow in 2004 put the average life expectancy rate at 66 ½ . Ain't life great!)

REDUNDANT?

The jobs market can be a daunting place. With a choice of up to THREE jobs at any given time in Stanley job centre, you want to make sure you apply for the one that's right for you. I can't give you any guidelines on good employers, because I don't know any. But here's my advice on those to AVOID.....

- 1) If , during the job interview , they give you bits of paper, glue and scissors and ask you to make something, get out of there immediately - the company is run by American mentalists!
- 2) A sign up saying "the company will not tolerate abuse of colleagues" translates as "We are understaffed to fuck and half the staff are on prozac"
- 3) If the job ad says "meets NMW" not only are they paying the very least they can get away with, they're that devious they don't even want to tell you what the rate is.
- 4) If it's Mcdonalds.....run like fuck!

This issue's cover is from a junk email Levy sent me entitled "last day on the job" which also included a disgruntled petrol station attendant advertising the number to the safe on the electronic sale board outside, and someone sacked from a departure lounge who left news that his boss was a twat on the departure screen!

The 1 in 12 club (one of the few venues I could never find fault with) need money for a new lift, roof repairs etc. Anyone wishing to help can write to them at 21-23 Albion St, Bradford, W Yorks, BD1 2LY or click on www.1in12club.com

REBELLION 08 - Winter gardens Blackpool

REBELLION

I don't wanna sound like a fucking hippie or something but the hills near Tebay are starting to have an almost religious significance - when passing them on the way down, they're a beaming light of optimism ; but passing em on the way back up, they become a signal of doom and gloom of Joy Division LP proportions. Put simply, Rebellion is the best holiday you could ever wish for, and when it's over...oh fuck. Anarcho whingers who make me look like The Secret Millionaire , and sad elitist twats who stalk me on internet forums and try to tell me that "my" punk is "over" and "their" punk with it's pretentious lyrics , arty fartiness and out of tune Americanised vocals is "where it's at" , well, *they* will never understand. Whether it's having a bit craic to people from Wigan, Bristol, Belfast, Dagenham and Scotland (all in the space of 10 minutes) , seeing good bands (in at least 3 rooms) or feasting your eyes on the vast array of music and merch on offer, it makes the typical trendy holiday seem as dull as church.

FRIDAY

So with me and Dawn raring to go it's off to see our first band of the weekend **Reazione** who sound a lot better this year, although there was some kind of irritating competition going on with **Los Fastidios** (playing the next day) of singing cheesy old songs between numbers.



Argy Bargy next and definitely a band who are on the way up - now almost filling the huge Empress ballroom. Most of the bands set is culled from the latest album which Dawn has IPOD'ed and points out some of the songs sound like the Jam (which I never noticed at first but she's right. Well being a woman she *would* be) ... "Don't Wanna Be Like You" & "No Regrets" are indeed up there with the likes of "Eton Rifles" and the band turn in a blinding performance which (from our vantage point of behind the mixing desk) sounds just like the CD itself.

It's up to the Pavillion next for **Runnin Riot**, a band who never change despite having more line ups than a firing squad. Another powerful performance featuring mainly old classics like "Judge Jury & Executioner" & "Johnny Reggae" plus mid period stuff like "PTA" and the odd new un. Tight singalong Oi with rabblerrousing Ian Paisley style vocals. I hear that the new album is cracking so let's hope Colin lays off the ale long enough to get it put out.

After relaxing in the bar for a bit we stuck our heads round the corner for **Uproar** in the Arena. The heat hits you like a greenhouse as soon as you walk in this place. I once would've never missed a gig by these but the echoey acoustics and heat meant it was a brief visit. Then Dawn wanted to see **Chumbawamba** acoustic. First time we'd been in the place, and after the long stairs/walkway you are faced with the humidity of a tropical rainforest. I don't know if it was the band's ego or stage- hand incompetence but we were kept waiting 20 minutes while assorted studenty types went back and forward with mics. The band finally emerged minus Alice Alice who the fuck is Alice, and sounded to me like The Beautiful South (albeit with more direct/political lyrics) and I left Dawn to check out the **Boombtown Rats** in the Empress. People may laugh, but remember, the first 3 singles were cracking. I guess in my optimism that they might pull off a few surprises...ie maybe it was Geldof behind all the commercial shit? Not a chance. I stayed for 2 songs which must've been post-*Tonic For The Troops* because they were fucking appalling. Middle of the road rock, looking like what you would expect U2's roadies to look like. I rejoined Dawn and we retired for the night.

THE RESIGNATORS

INSPECT-IRCONSPIRACY

SATURDAY

It began with a jar in the Red Bar around the corner from venue which had £2 pints (if you could face shite like Fosters) but also bottles of Zyweic for £2.50 (never accuse me of being tight, I paid the extra 50p!). Oddly enough it's ran by the same people as the Winter Gardens, so why can't they have Zyweic in there? Probably cos we'd all be in hospital by the end of the weekend I guess.. Anyway no time to get over familiar with the surroundings as **Amazing Space Frogs** were kicking the day off in The Pavillion. Some great, tight as fuck musicianship with some good lead breaks. The vocals will be too high pitched for most but Buggy is one of pinks few real characters . Hilarious lyrics and self depreciating humour as he recalls how "Filthy Habits" EP is now worth hundreds, and kicks into a great version of "Necrophillia" . We were to hear that again in more intimate settings on Monday morning. At 3PM it was off to the Empress to see one of Dawn's fave bands **Los Fastidios**, lively , catchy anti fascist Oi/ska (we'll almost forgive them the cheesy song competition I mentioned during Reazione). I wanted to stay for **Chelsea** but our bellies got the better of us and we popped back to the B & B where we find The Space Frogs camped out in the bar (the B & B owner is an old friend of the Teeside loons). Buggy is one of the funniest men I've ever met. I met him at Newcastle Punk Exhibition a few years ago where I tried to set up a gig with Barse. I told him the offer was no longer as Gash killed himself. Buggy replied "*Fucking hell you didn't tell him they were gonna be playing with US did ya!*". He then told us about the old Middlesbrough Rock Garden days when the band were given a support slot to Vice Squad. "*So we wrote a song called "Fatty Beki Bondage!"*" (Beki's lad at the time was far from amused apparently). Anyway despite the tales , time moves all too fast at these things so we had to get back to the gig.

The notorious car park venue of years gone by was back in action for tonight only - so much for "a night at the opera" ! **Shame Academy** are probably one of the most authentic covers bands around, for at least 2 of the members were in the bands that actually played the originals (Rudi & Outcasts) and drummer Petesy from Stalag 17 was also high profile in the Belfast scene. I caught versions of some of Rudi's later songs ("I Wish You Were Dead" and "The Pressure's On" - both sounding better than on record) and a blinding rendition of The Outcasts "*Magnum Force*", but Rebellion turns you into a spoilt child and you never seem to stay in one place for long, so it was soon up to the acoustic sauna (acoustic stage) where Dawn was watching **Steve Drewett** through a somewhat lame sounding PA, backing up my view that punk rock was never meant to be acoustic. Still at least I finally met Ash from Leeds and Tom from Norfolk - this is the great thing about these gigs, you can not predict who you'll be talking to (or where) at any given time.

REBELLION

Bumped into more of the Leeds contingent (Cab & Alayne) and missed **Rezillos** whilst chatting and saying goodbye to Dawn who was off back to the B n B for an early night. Off to the Empress to catch **Bad Company Project** (never a good idea to name your band after a 70's rock one) who are Sucker from Oxymoron plus new band. They were actually filling Conflict's abandoned slot instead of the graveyard slot they were originally allocated, so despite posters on the venue windows, it looks like a lot of people



missed em. They sounded exactly the same, even playing some of the later Oxymoron songs like "Life's a Bitch" etc, but a few songs aside, they lacked the anthems of "Fuck The 90's". "10 Years On" is a cracking song but not many of the other BCP ones equal it.

Then it was more liggering in the bar before I tried to catch the end of **SLF** in the Olympia and a surreal situation where a pond full of plastic glasses had appeared between bar and stage, leaving one crowd down the front, and one further back which isn't exactly conducive to a good atmosphere (not that you could have an atmosphere in a place like this anyway). Saw em do an encore of "Johnny Was" before I went in search of beer. Like 2 years ago it was silly season again at the bar where lager (or cider depending which bar) had ran out, and apart from Guinness, the only drinkable pint Winter Gardens serve is snakebite (it masks the shiteness of Fosters). One thing that hadn't ran out were the queues, I (along with hundreds of others) was starting to get beer rage. Ended up having to get half a lager and a tin of cider (at extortionate price) and headed off to **The Beggars** in The Pavillion who started off fine, very energetic performance, playing decent mid period songs like "Before I Hang" but they soon started doing stuff like "Stress" etc and I cleared off to Bar Red where I caught up with Josef from Conflict forum, then it was back down to see **Cock Sparrer**. Word had it that if you weren't in for the **Dickies** beforehand you'd have no chance, but that wasn't the case. Down the middle stairs and centrally placed (if as far away as China from the band), we bumped into

Monti (Sons Of Bad Breath) and had a good bit craic, trying to avoid tripping over kids on the floor doing colouring books (???). It was easier going to the main bogs than struggling past hundreds of pissheads so off I went and on the way back bumped into Brian from Rudi/Shame Academy then Sean (Do Something/Makes You Want To Spit book), then Stu (Control)...then decided I was too tired to go back in to see one of the greatest bands ever. See what I mean about the chaos? The bassist of Gimp Fist collared me on the way out; "Oi we're on after Sparrer" he said. Sounds good in theory, but reality is unfortunately old bastards like me who are already past their bedtime...

SUNDAY

An early start due to our mate Dave who's less than friendly B & B (or should that just be B?) chucked him out in the rain at 9.30 for not paying an extra fiver for breakfast! So not one to leave someone stranded, I left Dawn back at our B & B and went along the venue where I found him on the steps with an almost empty bottle of Strongbow and various crusty punks (the pretend cops had yet to make an appearance) and it was off to Bar Red, where we were soon joined by the legendary Felling Mick, who impressed the barmaid with his injuries (he was in a bit too much of a hurry to get down for breakfast the previous day!). At least he didn't spoil his good looks!

I actually thought the line up was shite today but looking back I realise I missed **Middle Finger Salute**, **The Blame** and **Dangers Close**. Oh well, a bit late to do owt about that now... Still had a good bit craic in the bar. Met Dawn then went in search of grub but it was back for **Strawberry Blondes** (who are sort of a cross between The Beggars, Clash and Rancid, and had John Robb guesting on one of their EP's...he seems to have influenced singer Micky who runs round like a lunatic, guitar in the air etc). Then the rescheduled **Neville Staples** who was well impressive, all the Specials classics. One of the highlights of the weekend despite the almost cover band feel to it. Saw a bit of **The Sweet** who were as good as you'd expect (and actually looked the part, unlike Slade last year), though someone said the singer/guitarist was from Sailor (fuck me) and they made the mistake of dedicating the horrendous "Love Is Like Oxygen" to Brian Connelly (why not the classics like "Action" or "Live For Today"?). Then it was up to the Pavillion where Dawn was watching **Barnstormer**. No time to relax though as John from Overground urgently needed help in unloading his swag. Missed the UK Subs then had a chill in the bar before popping down to see **4-Skins** who were mid-set doing their least impressive numbers - I was too far away to give any constructive opinion, and too knackered to stay round for the good stuff so it was rejoin Dawn, and grab a Chinese before it shut. Though I did hear there were some knackers from abroad seagull spotting. They just don't get it do they?

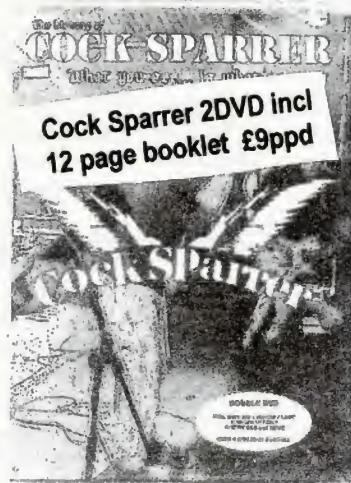
THURSDAY 7TH AUGUST - SUNDAY 10TH AUGUST 2008

Next day and some great entertainment at breakfast. **Amazing Space Frogs** turned up and I swear I have never seen anything so surreal as a dining room full of respectable family types (the only punks staying were us, John Fast & Loud and a geezer from Leics) staring in total bewilderment as Bugsy jumped round the room giving us a rendition of "I'm Into Necrophilia" !! Mind you the cunt never sent the CD he promised us.

The ridiculously late coach times meant we could chill in Yates with Monti (ex Sons of Bad Breath) & Sascha and Benny, the only die hards! There is only so much you can drink before you feel fucking rotten I guess. And so it was back to Stanley, rotten weather and an extended hangover.

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Argy Bargy- drink drugs football thugs
Barse- Negative Reaction (singalong 77 style like SPARRER in places)
Badlands- When angels are crucified
Barse- If you Can't fuck em cut em up (GREAT 77 meets Oi style)
Barse- Singles & Rarities (16 tracks plus full album by Dcorner Bois-great!)
Barse- They Said it couldn't happen Here

Beerzone - Against the flow/strangle all the boy bands & great booklet

Blue Collar Criminals- Kindred spirits & Unheard Cries (US Oi/HC bit like Blood For Blood)

Combat 84- Tooled Up 5 tr CDEP (prev. hard to find comeback EP from late 90's)

Crashed Out - Back for more MCD £4
-Fast Loose & Live (great quality)

Down & Outs-Boys from the blackstuff (great singalong street punk)

-Friday nights Monday mornings

Electric Frankenstein - Action High (DEAD BOYS style rockin punk)

Go Betty Go- Nothing is more (L7 meets Distillers sound) (promo hole in bar code)

Howitzer-Turncoat EP (Hudson Falcons and NYHC styles) £4
-Police State (full length)

Indigents- No Cerveza (snotty Stitches style meets LA punk on No Front Teeth, ex Hostage recs band)

Membranes-Kiss ass godhead (pre Goldblade, their best album)

Meteors- Psychobilly (Russian import)

Pheonix City Muggers- S/T (US Oi with great guitars)

Pits-New Conspiracies (hard to find farewell album by 77 style band)

Red Letter Day-More songs about love & war (good tuneful late 80's punk plus split LP tracks & great Overground bkt) £4

BARSE / D'CORNER BOYS - split CD

A split CD from England's finest—one unfortunately defunct and the other happily plugging away. D'CORNER BOYS play super tight, metallic punk rock, keeping the melody high and the riffs in abundance. Tight and to the point with a nice touch of '82-style swagger. Working class lyrics that don't fall into working class clichés, some down with a wink and nod and others with a swift kick to the *testaloids*. Ten tunes, each a fist-pumping anthem. BARSE throws down 16 singles and rarities tracks. A lot of the tunes come off as lost classics from the heyday of British punk rock, with hints of TELEVISION PERSONALITIES, SWELL MAPS, EATER, THE SUBWAY SECT, and THE CIGARETTES, to name a few. The lo-fi production totally adds to the charm and timelessness of BARSE. Personally, I love this CD more than their LPs, as they are soaked in that ol' John Peel warmth that fed my lust of punk back in my spotty, awkward teenage days. A classic and fitting tribute to the late Gash. (SD)

(Hell Tone, PO Box 162, 53101, Lappeenranta, FINLAND, www.lprhardcore.net/htr)

Email for big list of VINYL (old, new, fan club etc), CD's (huge list), skinhead clothing, books (gangland etc), DVDs (punk/gangland) & metal badges

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Riot Squad-Persecute the weak (EXPLOITED style)

Servatron - I sing (Devo/art punk style) £2 inc post (EP)

Seventeen Stitches-Antisocial 7tr EP incl Upstarts cover) £2

Sham 69- Hollywood hero (US import)

Snazzy Boys- S/T (great BRIEFS style)

The Spitzz- Touche pussycats (ex Showcase Showdown good 77ish punk)

Varukers-One struggle (Capn Oi)
-Still bollox (Capn Oi)

V/A-Oi The Resurrection - late 80's Oi

Email for big list that includes Step 1, Overground, Captain Oi!, Damaged Goods, Cherry Red, and a whole load of obscure foreign stuff and smaller labels!
Oi! - Anarcho - HC - 77/82 style

I am fast, reliable, no CD is more than £8 and there's a sizeable 3 for a tenner section!

Offers of trades welcome

THE DIPSO MANI ★ CS

Once again we doff our flat caps to Steve from Street Voice for another good interview...

The Dipsomaniacs are made up of several Punk bands including the Angelic Upstarts, Red Alert and Red London so they were always going to be featured within the Street Voice pages because of who they are. With an album just released it was certainly the best time to interview them for Street Voice. Here's what Neil said on behalf of the band.

First off can you introduce the Dipsomaniacs to the world please?

The band members are, Steve 'Cast Iron' Smith - Vocals, Gaz Stoker - Bass, Dickie Hammond - Guitar, Neil Newton - Guitar and Brett Mulvany - Drums.

The band is made up from band members from the Angelic Upstarts, Red Alert and Red London but have I missed any bands out?

Brett was in a band called The Pits and Dickie Hammond has been in loads, notably Leatherface, HDQ, Fatty Jones, Stokoe and Dr Bison.

How come all you guys got together to form the band in the first place?

Apart from Steve the rest of us were also playing for the Angelic Upstarts. As the Upstarts don't gig too often we decided to get something new together purely for the enjoyment of playing and touring a lot more frequently. We asked Steve if he fancied getting involved to which he obviously agreed to and in a nutshell that's how it happened. I should point out that Steve is also still touring with Red Alert and has just come back from a tour of the states so it's a busy time all round.

I notice you lot aren't as handsome as folks like myself (Christ!-ED) and Mensi so are you going to be wearing masks on stage like Slipknot so you don't scare the audience?

Firstly I would like to congratulate you on your finely honed skills in tact, diplomacy and sensitivity. As for wearing masks I can exclusively reveal that the photos you have seen of the band are photos of us in our 'pug ugly' suits. We have deliberately taken to wearing these disguises to hide the fact that each member of the band is a bronzed toned Adonis. To reveal ourselves as we really are would cause untold hysteria due to our unrivalled good looks.

You've just recently released your debut album 'Gambrinus' so how do you feel about the finished product?

We're all extremely pleased with the outcome. Fred Purser who was behind the desk has done a fantastic job and is brilliant to work with, a top bloke.

How did the deal with Mad Butcher come along?

Well, we'd recorded a 3 track demo in August 07 and took it with us when we went on tour with the Upstarts, as a result of passing it around to various labels whilst on tour we were made a number of offers. After mulling these offers over we felt that Mad Butcher was the best option. What also helped us in making the decision to go with Mad Butcher was the fact that one of the label guys, Mike, came over to the UK to see us and share a few beers and discuss what plans the label had for the band.

You're doing a couple of gigs to promote the band but how did you get involved with the Antifa gig?

It came about because the Upstarts merch guy, Mark Page, is actively involved with Antifa and he approached us and asked us if we were willing to do a benefit gig for the Cable Street anniversary. Naturally we agreed.

Being part of the Antifa gig you must obviously support them so what you say to those who think fascism isn't a problem in the UK?

To those that think fascism isn't a problem I would say, "Have you thought of a career as a politician? You fit the job description perfectly as you seem oblivious to something that is right in front of your face".



Any opinion on these new Oi! bands that sound like Margaret Thatcher and want the old days of the Tories back again?

Hmm let's see. Industries wiped out, communities shattered, families torn apart. Utilities, Transport and National Health privatised to make them more competitive but at the cost of quality of service and higher prices for those most in need of it yet least able to afford it. Ever decreasing social housing driving many to go to private landlords charging exorbitant rents.....Better stop there before the keyboard gets smashed by the increasing force of the typing. Oh yeah, the good old days of the Tories, oh what fuckin fun we had! I'd suggest that these new bands have never lived in an area that took the brunt of her cruel regimes policies.

We all know New Labour have let down the working class but that is no surprise so would you guys like to see a more staunch socialist govt running things?

Would like to see a government that puts its people and their needs first. Would like to see a government who's policies promote a sense of community and compassion instead of greed and violence. Oh yes, and one that doesn't lie to the electorate in order to send people off to war.

Arthur Scargill is a working class hero to many who saw him make the stand against Thatcher so maybe he should be running the country? Any opinions?

If he stood up for the country as he did for the miners I wouldn't have a problem with him being in charge. The establishment just wouldn't allow it as they're shit scared of their cosy existence being shattered by someone not afraid to expose them for what they are.

Going back to the band what other plans have you have for the Dipsomaniacs?

More recording, gigging and that ancient art of having a right old laugh whilst doing it.

Are there any plans to take on a full European tour and if so when?

We're going to have to wait and see how the album does but yes we are certainly going to be touring europe and hopefully farther afield too. Again that is going to depend on how well the album is received as to how comprehensive any tours will be. Personally I would live my life on the road if I could. I just love going to different places and meeting loads of different people. Any tours will most probably be in the new year.

You're all big drinkers but who's top dog when it comes to getting it down your throats?

I'm going to nominate Dickie Hammond for that particular honour. So many tales to tell but so little space!

Anything you'd like to add?

Get a listen to the album, get along to the gigs and just enjoy yourselves. And if anyone cares to challenge us to a game of darts they're more than welcome.

Thanks to Neil for taking time out to make sure the interview is a great read. You guys really do need to check out the Dipsomaniacs debut album 'Gambrinus' which is out on Mad Butcher Records. Great band and great album and I wish the guys well for the future

If you are the kind of person who rings the BBC about Ross and Bland I wouldn't read this if I were you. From the City of Bastards it's

MIKE HUNT

Why is Mother Theresa being made a saint? What did the anus faced old witch ever do? She provided a roof for dying people in Calcutta and had missions all over the world, where starving children could be subjected to the man love of the catholic church. Despite the millions of dollars given to the scrotum-hag by the likes of Baby Doc Duvalier the Haitian Dictator and right wing American fraudsters. Despite all the money, the children lived in shit and the people died without even a fucking aspirin. I suppose a blow job was out of the question but really, not even an aspirin?

There was a bloke on the local news last night who has written to the Pope and said that Mother Theresa cured his mental illness by laying her hand upon him. I beg to differ you mental cunt.

A lot of the money went on more missions (she claimed to have rehomed up to, er, 40 children) and the rest went on campaigns against abortion and contraception. Here then is a TWISTED FUCK who's life work ensured that the problems continued- ensured more starvation, more disease, more ignorance more poverty, more unwanted children. Did she ever speak out against the corporations who cause theses social disease? No, they were her main benefactors. Even in Nicaragua, when the Contra's fucked and killed those nuns, she went straight out and gave her support to Reagan, the cunt behind the rape and murder.

LEEDS LEEDS LEEDS

Regular readers of this shit will know all about Leeds' problem with politically correctness. Now I've nothing against political correctness.-Its like arseholes, I don't mind them as long as they aren't pushed in my face. But Leeds has always had this problem with poor analysis, politically correct middle class men, often with bizarre names, who attend the university after public school and then haven't got the decency to fuck off and leave the city alone. They dominate, as the officer class does, all broad opposition groups, bitch, backstab and do anything they can to get their neeky little posh lads' cock's sucked. It's just natural selection, played out by poshies. Many of them are or have been crusties, but why the mating ritual seemed to involve smearing yourself in your own shit always baffled me.

Then you have a coven of witchy women, the sort that had no friends at school, who've found a niche where just by the fact that they have tits, they are considered oppressed and therefore beyond reproach. The power they wield is unquestioned by the posh lads because at the end of the day, who else is going to suck their cocks?

FUCK THE OLYMPICS

Speaking as a man who wipes his anus on the union jack, you might be surprised just how much I'm looking forward to 2012 and the cockney Olympics. I know its going to cost me a fortune and I'm going to get no benefit for it, I know that. I know that the seats have already been given away to "celebrities" and the remainder will cost more than my yearly salary, just like Wembley- I know that. What I'm looking forward to is an opening ceremony that best represents our national psyche- an opening festival that sums up Britain.

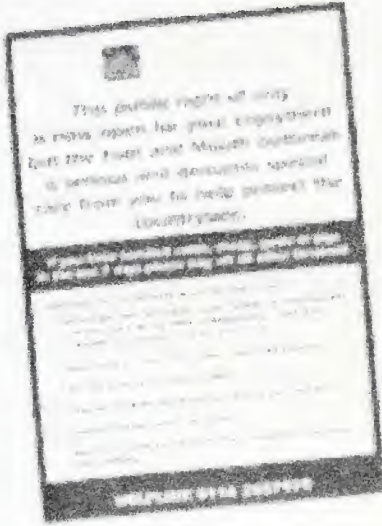
Ok. For a start, let's have massive cages, metal gabions of despair, filled with the disenfranchised, being mocked and mooned at by Dale Winton and other arse kissing corporate cock sucking comedians. Lets have a giant Pac-man to symbolise the Olympic commission, running round a maze littered with bribes and expensive high class ladyboys (a bit like *it's a knockout* but filmed in the arse-hole end of hell), devouring cakes, slapping its unfeasibly gargantuan phallus in the faces of the call girls and stuffing rolls of dirty money into a dead seal pup purse.

Next, we'll have the Spice Girls fly in on a giant Botox sponsored flying carpet made of Jamie Oliver's fat tongue, each one fighting to get their gurning face in the camera and wiping their arses on some trillion pound notes.

Ten lucky girls from a Romford council estate then get to suck off a boy band and all the time, 4000 lobotomised cockneys run round in circles gibbering excitedly. Then, as the whole world laughs at what cunts we are, David Cameron tells us all how great it is to be British and rams a bum-trumpet up Boris Johnson's arse- which fails to produce any tune, just blows off like some fat bastards ringpiece, farting in the face of the poor.

Yeah, its been great in China- what a show they put on- aren't they great? Lets forget that they fucking RUN PEOPLE OVER IN TANKS and are taking over even the dirty Americans in polluting the earth. Its all such utter shit. I hope there's a flood while its on. I hope the weather's shit. I hope the sewage system can't cope. The Olympic river flooding in a big sea of tampons, shit and ear pickers- priceless! Fucking Olympics. Isn't it great? Doesn't it make you proud to come from earth? Aren't people fucking ace?

FARMER'S TV



MONDAY

7pm Rural Roulette

Local film makers are given the opportunity to express their displeasure with multi cultural Britain via the medium of the abuse of animal carcasses. This week, a jealous simpleton butch looking woman gardener from Ashington with a hair extension that looks like a shitty rats tail nails a pigs head to the door of an old Methodist Church now used as a community centre for asylum seekers.

7.30pm FILM Star Farmers FIRST CONTACT

The crew of the USS Subsidy make first contact with the peaceful aliens of Planet Vegan. Concerned about the threat to their livelihood and them all coming over here and talking our jobs, Captain Farmer Grumpycunt fires photon torpedoes into the nearby sun causing a gigantic explosion as thousands of billions of tonnes of white hot metal races across space and obliterates Vegan for ever. Then the real fight begins for compensation.

9.30 pm They died in pain

Mobile phone footage of acts of appalling cruelty carried out by fully grown men in army camouflage gear all of whom share the common characteristic that they'd lose a game of kerplunk to a sprout and they'd all like to not have a three inch long cock.

10pm Rural Fashions

A return of the fabulous series of

programmes on smocks, gaiters and massive overtly embroidered jumpers. People in the countryside with no personality and no views to express other than how hard done to they are, can be judged by other cretins on their mullets and how much they spent on their hawkers. Half an hour of programming thicker than shit itself.

10.30pm Rural Pub Tricks

Nathan Burgervan has salt water poured up his rectum until his convulsions bring his own coin out into his mouth and he orally shits into a urinal.

11 pm 30,000 Day Holocaust

The life of Cumbrian farmer Alf Gigglets who in his 82 years on this earth claimed to have shot more than 400 species of mammals and cultivated enough virgin meadowland to graze 1000 ugly fat farmer's wives

12am Cuntry Life

Massive gibbon like hope vulture and carrion feeding bellend young farmer Jake D. Foreskin takes us on a tour of his cretinous life growing up as a farmers boy in rural Northumberland. *Episode 1.* Jake takes his Golf GTI convertible out on a spin through Alnwick with the roof down blasting out Bon Jovi's greatest hits with chinless prick Sebastian hammering out a beat on the dashboard and inbred toffee nosed half horse half upper class twit Jennifer sat in the back screaming "OH MY GODDDDD!!!" into a mobile phone. Jenny's good breeding has led to her having, unfortunately, no vagina and we see her consequently pissing uncontrollably out of her arse.

12.30am FILM. The man who fucked 1000 turkeys

Nigel Cadaver, a man with a face like a haunted room cursed by the ghost of an aborted foetus, lamenting lost potential for short term expedience- much like the countryside itself- goes round fucking turkeys. Plot less film noir/ a one for the lads.

TUESDAY

7pm We lie they buy

Hateful farmers rely upon the sentimentality of urban liberals to sell hiked up priced "free range" food. This series looks at ways of pulling the wool

over their eyes without missing the opportunity for cruelty or costing a penny.

Episode 1 Farmer Tampon and Farmer Beasting have a problem marketing their chicken so that it looks like it grew up in a yurt, not that it died of cholera in a ditch. They visit humongous bullshitting advertising executive Neville Cock whose' logo for "Happy Farms" is a fat green hen which is sat on a smiling scarecrow that is wearing an ill fitting bra. But will this symbolise freedom to the townie Guardian reading liberals?

8pm FILM Massacre

During the flood, Noah, played by Jaws from James Bond, learns that Satan has built a floating zoo and is attempting to pervert Biblical history with his evil ways. Noah responds to this Satanic

attack by setting his
Tyrannosaurus
loose to
massacre
Satan's animals.
Plenty of blood.



10.30pm Its

DANGEROUS OUT THERE!!!

Hysterical bed wetting series of programmes explaining just how scary it really is out there in the countryside. Every week, viewers are scared shitless by earnest sounding rural coppers and panic stricken presenters desperately trying to persuade everyone to stay at home behind locked doors and carry a gun. This episode is called simply "Niggers"

11pm Real Countryside

Wisdom Malarkey is the sort of bumpkin twat who's educational needs would be best met by being hit repeatedly in the face with a shit shovel coated in concrete. Instead, some coke headed media cunt in London has given the fat bearded wanker a grant to waste on a programme about his life which, as it mostly involves flashing his gigantic and grotesquely deformed penis at livestock, will make for an unusual documentary.

11.30 pm Captain Monocle

The ghostly grey spectre glides through the town of Pimplefeck, silently and without disturbing a soul, yet causing the rats in the gutters to squirm and

FARMERS TV * FARMERS TV * FARMERS TV

choke and dive for cover. We see what he sees, a real taste of the real countryside in action. This week, the pale eyed phantom sees Colonel Bellings using an SS crop from Belsen Death Camp that he bought off e-bay to beat a Romanian house maid, Ned Wurzel organising a dog fight and local farmers boys meet behind the bus stop to pass round a dead woman's underwear to sniff.

WEDNESDAY

7pm **The Village Inn**

New sit com from the writers of FAFTA smash hit Dung. Set in the Village of Gutdrop, watch the everyday rural life from the bar of the Bloody Hammer.

Episode 1

Bessy Spongerag runs into the Hammer in a panic- her guts have fallen out of her anus and Farmer Cataract's dog Blackie is chasing after the burn sausages falling out her pants! What follows is a terrible mix up where no one



Elsewhere, Dave Elk and Walter Yak have a fight.

8pm **RURAL CELEBRITY BIG BROTHER!! LIVE!**

Edmonds, Clarissa, Fanny-Liqueur and the other pro countryside celebrities are stuck in the celebrity big brother farm house. What they don't know is that nothing is actually being filmed! But they don't find out until they are "voted" out at the whim of the producer and they emerge to see no one waiting for them, no crowds and no adulation. They are useless and anonymous. We then watch them cry like bitches!

Tune in to the audio link, its hilarious! We've got ex East 17 star Brian Harvey - who recently ran his own head over in his own car - to narrate via Professor Stephen Hawkins voice box machine. Hear the voice of the worlds cleverest man through the brain process of a wazzock! Just what will the voice box make of Harvey's attempts to spell?

THURSDAY

7pm **Farmer Macabre**

Farmer Macabre takes us on a walk around his creepy estate near the meeting of the north and south Tyne in Northumberland. Here we find a gibbet made of decorative Christmas lights, sagging under the weight of rotting mole carcasses and nearby, a dead birch that



has succumbed to polyploidy fungus, draped with the tortured remains of a dozen foxes, each with a dead rose

flower clasped in their teeth.

7.30pm **Farmer Macabre**

Farmer Macabre sits in his living room, illuminated by his cow foetus lava-lamp, and then takes us to a stream where two children drowned. The farmer floats two crow skulls on paper boats, each holding a solitary candle which casts eerie shadows across the dark open fields.

8pm **I'm not your bitch!**

Furious village harridans, motivated by feelings of jealousy and insecurity they are too stupid to understand, frown and glare at mathematical puzzles written on the back of the toilet door in an East Northumberland pub then go out and start fighting everyone in the car park.

8.30pm **Farming Superstars**

Four farmers compete to go through to the next round of the popular yet competitive rural game show. This week, the farmers struggle to make a sheep go into a barn, carry a bail of straw across a field on a windy day for no good reason and attempt to tie a gate together with blue nylon chord smeared in axle grease.

9 pm **Death to Diversity**

Angry busybodies in rural hamlets get together to ruin the lives of anyone different. Tonight, the local North Hexhamshire WI group burn out a chip van in the village that they believe is lowering the tone. Particularly funny is the stoning to death of the olive skinned proprietor, who the WI believe is a nigger.

10.00pm **Have your say**

This week, the studio audience is asked to consider the issue of decimal currency (raised in a recent FTV documentary) and the tragic case of local hero Reg Cuntox who took on the government over the right to sell offal by the groat but died when his cock got stuck in a pig.

11pm **Folk in Bollox**

Live country folk music from the Bollox Inn in Throttlegarp. Drawn faced nettle chewing loser 'Hairy' Mary Nobber sings a 24 verse ballad without using any consecutive sounds that in any combined form could possible make any word



understandable to modern man. A professional Irishman plays a banjo and some dullard pricks whoop like the cunts they are. A prolific masturbator waits in the corner hoping for a chance to recite some of his poetry.

11.30pm **Antichrist Allotments**

Dave Cannibal has a secret- beneath his innocent looking allotment shed is an underground bunker staffed by volunteers dedicated to wiping out any trace of anti Christian behaviour in the countryside! In this hell and brimstone episode, Dave calls Rubin Handyside and Vernon Mentalist to capture a local teacher who has been bringing Darwinism into the classroom. While the local constabulary turn a blind eye, Dave and Rod hold the harridan down while Rubin brands her face with a white hot crucifix. The Reverend Boyscock rejoices and once again, the antichrist is thwarted!
Subtitles pg661

12.00am **Midnight Mass**

The Reverent Hector Fuckbrother from Ireshopeburn Evangelist Church says a prayer for all those caught out when the leaked BNP membership list was published. Packed house expected!

FARMERS TV * FARMERS TV * FARMERS TV



I first heard D'Corner Bois on Rich Lard's "Middleground" compilation a few years ago and i was well impressed. They sounded like the best of 80's anarcho (ie Morbid Humour or some other band that could play and hold a tune). Then came their debut album which I thought was a bit of a regression, heading more in a Chaos UK direction. But not to worry, 2008 saw them bang on form again. "Everything's A Mess" combines top notch production, great musicianship, clever (but to the point) political lyrics, singalong choruses and even the odd DK's surf riff to round it all off. And on the same CD you also get Barse's "Singles & Rarities" album, a totally different beast - anthemic 1978 style punk that you'd expect to find on Detour/Bin Liner recs. Two great albums for £5ppd pay-pal from trevhagl@hotmail.com (email if you haven't got pay pal for other methods). Oh it's an interview not a sales pitch is it? Here we go...

Reaction to the split CD up here has been great which is odd considering both bands are completely different in style. What's reaction down your way been like, and are you happy with it?

Ben - We're happy with it and there's been a lot of kind words, a couple of good reviews, but not really anything i would call a reaction! People are not really getting the Barse stuff yet but i'm telling em to listen again cause it really grew on me after a few listens.

Al- I'm very happy with it. As for the two bands being different in sound, I think it's a great idea because usually with split releases you get two bands that sound pretty much the same. I also find that the different sound from the both bands is also good

Despite the great sound, it was recorded in Rich Lard's house . How did that work? It sounds a completely different CD to your first album - what went wrong with that one?

Ben - 'When we did the first one we just went into a live room and bashed 10 songs out in 2 hours. We didn't even think about releasing it beforehand but it seemed like a good demo and a quick way of introducing people to what we do. It went down really well considering, we sold 300 in the end and all at gigs, despite the ultra DIY approach. For this one we got a good engineer and he set his stuff up in the kitchen and we played the songs live in the living room, dubbing the vocals on after. The recording took 2 days, and with a few hours mixing cost us £300.

Your song "Duped by Nazis" speaks for itself,

although I guess you could easily imagine the average Sun reader being drawn to them. But any idea why people like the ex singer of Contempt still end up going down that route, despite once being involved in the punk scene?

Ben - No idea about Griff. It does beggar belief how you can be writing anti-nazi songs for Contempt (as they told me he was) and then go the other way. These are worrying times. The BNP are making big noises about supporting working people and not being a racist party, and its being successful due to the complete failure of any of the 3 main parties to represent any of us. And the more the BNP are legitimised by these voters, who i see as being duped by scum who are conveniently hiding their right-wing agendas for now, the braver right-wing message and action on the ground. There have been some very vicious racist attacks in 2008, that I've read about in the press, but that have got very little attention from the media.

"97 betrayal" is a great song. Has your opinion of New Labour gotten even worse since writing that??

Ben - It certainly ain't got any better! It feels like a massive betrayal and such a wasted opportunity to turn things round. I won't vote for em next time but the wierd thing is I'm hoping they'll turn things round cause the Tories will be even worse. Unbearable, probably. Talk about a rock and a hard place! But there's too much political apathy and media control for it to change anytime soon. The party system we have is now pointless because the Parties only aim is to get or maintain power and the MPs have to toe the party line or they don't have any kind of career. Their career shouldn't be the reason they are there anyway so if you ask me this system doesn't work for the voters at all.

Al- I agree with Ben. I feel it's such a let down after people were so full of hope back in 1997 after being under Conservative rule for so long. But I hope to god that dick David Cameron doesn't get in to power! If he does, I'm going to dig a big hole until i get to Australia!

A few years ago the bloke from Metallica caused a ruckus when he slagged off people who download stuff. While I'm sure he was more concerned with affording another sports car, it seems he had a point after all with loads of independent record shops going out of business , and these people treating music a novelty rather than supporting the bands and getting properly into it. What are your views?

Ben - Give your music away, get your message across, and get a fucking job instead of poncing around dreaming about how many groupies you can shag! Shame about the stores but i reckon most of them are trading online and it has taken away all the costs of having to run a store.

Big AL - I've got no objection with people sharing our tunes or downloading them off Myspace, but bigger bands i can see what he was saying. At the end of the day, that's his career. That's his job. You don't decide how much you pay for food at Asda, so as far as i'm concerned, commercial music is the same. DIY and underground stuff that doesn't apply to, but if you're talking top 40 i'm with the chap from Metallica. *(I must be out of touch with the kids, I think the opposite!-ED)*



Do you think My Space has helped or hindered the punk scene, as most people on it seem to be more interested in their own egos and nostalgia than supporting the scene?

Ben - It's helped us communicate and i probably know a lot more DIY bands now than i did 3 years ago. It's good for promoting local gigs.

Dick - It's gotta be a good thing. A lot of us are lucky enough to have internet access so looking for gigs and hearing new stuff is easy. Nothing like a good 'ol paper flyer though, never give up on those.

Al - I think My Space is probably now the major tool to get gigs, organize gigs and generally communicate with bands. It's still DIY in my opinion, just a hell of a lot easier!

What's your opinion on ID cards and other assaults on democracy/freedom?

Ben - I already have a drivers' licence and a passport so why do i need a fucking ID card? And they want us to pay for our own card, on top of the millions of tax payers' money its gonna cost. And what problem is it meant to solve exactly? It was New Labour trying to look hard against crime and immigration like the Tory scum and getting themselves in big fucking mess as usual.

I think it's a terrible idea what with the amount of CCTV cameras as well. People argue and say 'well if you haven't done anything wrong, you've got nothing to be worried about!', well I don't do anything wrong when I'm going for a shit, but I still don't need people to watch me go and know where!

I remember reading in a zine that your name comes from the Irish term for youths gathering on street corners. Up here they would all be charvers (chavs). Now half of me feels sorry for them as there is bugger all future for kids today (shit jobs or dole hassle, what a choice), but then I see the little cunts jumping around on our roof and think FUCK EM! What are your views?

Ben - I place the blame firmly on successive governments who would rather spend money on ID cards, war, nuclear weapons etc instead of putting it where its needed to give people decent housing, a good education and something to do instead of wrecking the place. The run-down communities at the heart of all the ASB could easily be sorted out given the political will, but they spend all the dosh on a global power struggle over resources that only benefits the very 'elite' few.



Dick - What Ben said would definately solve the issue, especially better education creating better prospects. Unfortunately good parenting seems to be at an all time low and that's a big big problem.

Big AL - you could give kids all the future they wanted and build em a nice new youth centre, but i can guarantee a load of em would rather throw bricks at windows, rob penny sweets and steal dust caps from cars. And to be honest, i think that's the way it'll always be. Some of em are just little shits regardless of parenting or government incentives.

What bands have you played with and how did you get on with em?

Ben - We haven't ever chased (or been offered!) any gigs with so called 'big' punk bands so can't really comment on them if that's what you're after. I did beg for The Briefs gig in Brum 2006 cause I saw them earlier in the year and loved 'em, and was relieved to find them really sound blokes.

Dick - Loads of bands from all over the place. Most of the time it's a pleasure. It always makes for a great gig when you can have a laugh over a few beers with the other bands. Remember kids, help each other out. If your amp is knackered you'll be glad of the person who brought theirs and sorts you out!

Big AL - i've never not got on with a band like ourselves who are in it for what we're in it for. A laugh, a beer, and to get our point across. In my old band we played with quite a few of the established bands and besides Anti-Nowhere League, GBH and the Horrorpops, they were all cunts. Miserable, up their own arse, couldn't give a fuck about you, cunts. I'll use Agnostic Front as an example, at the Rock Cafe in Stourbridge they used all our backline, got paid a shit load, and never even said thanks or offered us a drink. So as far as i'm concerned if they're not gonna be sound with us i dont care who they are or how many t-shirts they sell on Interpunk. Fuck em.

There's a German word which means "to revel in other people's misfortune". I can't remember what it is but in England 2008/2009 watching others suffer is probably the only pleasure some people get in their lives. I'm talking about **HARD WORKING FAMILIES** grinding themselves into an early grave for unscrupulous bosses who fancy themselves as Victorian taskmasters.

Now there's nothing wrong with work. If it's rewarding, the hours are sensible and you are treated well (that's probably 0/3 for most people then). But when you get that bitter you begin to start thinking of voting Tory, then OH FUCK, game over. I have seen so many fundamentally decent people go down that slippery slope, filling their heads full of tabloid shite, until they emerge frothing at the mouth like a rabid dog with Jon Gaunt's big ugly head.

Kicking a man when he's down is now suddenly a thing to be proud of. I'm half expecting a new reality TV show starring James Purnell and Jeremy Kyle poking homeless, epileptic alcoholics (who've just had their dole stopped) with sticks, and the camera flashing over to Davina McCall watches the staff getting pissed and laughing their fucking heads off at the phones ringing off the hook from hapless punters hoping for a crisis loan.



The government declare war on soft toys

And then there's the urban myths that everyone on incapacity (now ESA) is a referee for the local Sunday league in his spare time. Or the belief that people walk into the dole and straight out again with a wheelbarrow of cash, Sky TV dish and the keys to a BMW.

Reality is different unfortunately - like the ex miner who paid his NI stamp for 40 years, then claimed incapacity benefit as he had cancer. He was turned down, he appealed and was told it could take 9 months - on the same day his doc gave him 11 months to live. They're probably already figuring a way of avoiding paying him the 2 months difference.

Or what about the bloke in Tamworth, Staffs, who was sent on a JSA training course where he was asked "how good are you in bed?" (and made to colour in pictures of elephants). I am not making this up! Apparently some boffin working for the nash had decided that people who are good in bed are better workers! (Which is bollocks. I am SHITEat work (boom boom))

Charvers in the toon demanding "80p for me bus home" (terrible inflation since the Ejected song!) or their Stanley scrote equivalents swaggering down the Front Street swearing loudly at their loathed ones in a bizarre mancanian-with-a-stroke accent are not exactly the sort of people you'd choose to take home for tea.

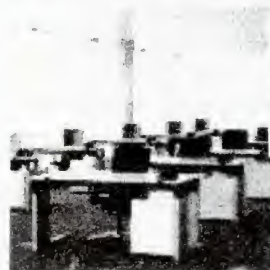
But the bigger the clampdown, the more of these people you and I will have to suffer. And, more seriously, the more our wages and conditions will be abused by devious bosses using the threat of an ever fearsome dole queue.

Solutions?

1) It costs as much to STOP someone getting benefits than it does to give them the money**! The bureaucratic forms (bigger than this fanzine) with unnecessary, duplicated questions, the farce of a medical, the long winded appeals process with detailed reports, and the tribunal itself where a highly qualified doctor and lawyer sit in judgement. All this could be avoided

if they would only listen to the claimant's family doctor in the first place. But THAT would not make for good headlines in the gutter press...

(**With the advent of ESA (Employment Support Allowance, which replaces incapacity benefit) this point is made even stronger - the government are now *paying* the likes of Asda to take on "shysters"!)



Sunderland Benefits Office at peak time.

2) Hard working families. Take a leaf out of Dan Kieran (The Idler)'s book. He decided he didn't like work so he realised the less he spent the less he would have to work. He adopted the long forgotten mantra of If you can't afford it, you can't have it, so sharks like Capital One and the Provi could go fuck themselves. Buy the bare essentials, shop around, and drink in cheap boozers (that is if you haven't given up on life altogether!). And if you're looking for an enemy look no further than fat cats who get more in bonuses than you get paid in years, NOT some poor fucker who is trying to survive on £60 a week.

According to official figures almost a billion pounds was lost to benefit fraud in 2006*. Meanwhile estimates revealed that in the same year tax avoidance by the super rich cost the country somewhere between 97 billion and 150 billion. Guess who the government and the media went after?

(*source - Mark Steel's book "What's Going On")

The government are destroying the welfare state at the very time people need it most. The biggest recession since Thatcher's glory days; millions running around like headless chickens chasing the few jobs that are available. So what do the government do? Force single mothers, the sick and disabled to join the hunt too!. Welcome to the New World Order Of Chaos.

A CHEAP HOLIDAY IN OTHER PEOPLES MISERY

FORUM WARS

The roots of the internet forum lie back in the 80's and CB radio. Despite the 'anorak' image we had some fucking fun on there. I was nuttered in the street, kidnapped, had 3 cars of radgies outside the house whilst one of em prowled the back garden with a hammer....those nice respectable family types that monitored the airwaves didn't exactly have the best sense of humour! They even pretended I'd won a raffle prize to try to entice me up there (never mind the Nigerians, this lot were way ahead of their time!) - I think I said "ah just keep it, give it to charity!" ! Even years later I had visits from the Old Bill accusing us of breaking into the garage of their 'leader' and smashing his windows (you don't half look guilty when you were that pissed ya can't even remember where the fuck you were the previous night!)

Being paranoid had it's uses though- when I saw 9 or 10 dodgy characters with an array of weapons coming through the estate up the road, I ran like fuck....got hit by a brick but on the whole a lucky escape (I later found out it was nothing to do with CB, it was part of an ongoing war with the next village)

Anyway, fast forward to 2008 and starting an argument is a lot safer. Less local for a start and 99percent of people use false names (especially on those you don't have to register for!). The CONFLICT forum was a laugh. There were a couple of Nazis taking on enough personas to cover the entire BNP membership, Steve DIY who could start a riot in an art gallery, all kinds of oddballs who would come on to post false accusations, there were even people asking questions and answering themselves under a different name to try to consolidate their argument! Some weirdo even put a rumour around that Charlie Harper was dead! But the best thing about it was that it was virtually impossible to get "barred" - not even if you slagged Colin himself.



I hope no one thinks this is me

Me and Consett Dave also had some great fun on the local council website forum, winding up all kinds of bored civil service New Labourites, who would express their anger at workshy fops who 'stole' their hard earned taxes. These were people who were being paid to play on the internet all day. Up the hard workers!

All that sadly came to an end when arguments raged to such an extent extreme violence was likely, and the plug was pulled on it for good, with the Conflict forum also disappearing not long after.

Some of us from the Conflict board moved onto The Forum. I am not going to say which one because there are still a few oddballs who read this fanzine, and there's enough fucking wierdos on The Forum to start with, without me redirecting a few more there.

Basically The Forum is like a nationwide version of the local council one, ie populated by smug arseholes. New Labourites, Tories, and 57 varieties of other unhinged freaks (even the odd vivisectionist!) Imagine debating music with people whose favourite Clash album is "Sandinista" and whose idea of classic punk rock is Broccoli - hard work I tell ya. Almost reminds me of the days I worked for FRACTURE and was voted most hated thing about it by the student hordes. Oddly enough the most controversial thread was the one Dave put up paraphrasing Ali G - "Is it cos I's working class, aye?" - this degenerated into all out war with half of North London's middle classes queuing up to issue death threats !

Alas, what starts as something to pass the time while you're waiting of other things on the computer booting up can soon become a full

time job. You take on the role of mental health nurse, as every freak in the country seems to gang up on you and before you know it it's tea time and you've got fuck all done. And Dawn is worried I've turned into Steve DIY!

A NATION OF BORING BASTARDS

10,000 people bothered to ring the BBC over an answerphone message (however distasteful) that they hadn't even heard. The producer was sacked, there was a media campaign and even the prime minister got involved. It's almost like the 80's, when if Tory politicians didn't like a programme they'd call for the head of channel 4. They went mad over a programme hosted by Keith Allen so he did the next show completely nude to piss them off further. THIS is what TV SHOULD be like! Instead however, the most risqué it gets is third rate celebrities eating animal testicles in the jungle. Mind you I did come across a hilarious show called "Balls of Steel" on You Tube which, turns out, was shown on Channel 4 - where were the guardians of morality when THAT went out? (see review next page)

But I think if anything sums up Britain's cultural decline it's JUNK TEXTS. Jokes purporting to be outrageous which are in fact that unfunny even The Comedians from the 70's wouldn't have gotten away with them. Barack Obama is black, let's make a joke out of it to show we have a sense of humour, whoopee! The people that create these "jokes" are the cunts who turn up on Nasty Friday once a year, get pissed on 2 pints of Extra Cold, cover the bogs with hoy, and are never seen again until next year (if there still ARE any pubs next year).

It's not just sense of humour Britain is failing on, it's community spirit. No country in the world has seen as many pubs close in the last year, and it's not all credit crunch. Admittedly the breweries'

greed knows no bounds but people seem to be giving up on life, sitting in their self made prisons watching rubbish like X Factor when they could be out enjoying themselves. Next generation is gonna be even worse. I keep telling the bairn to go out there and make friends but he's like "why should I? I've got computer games".

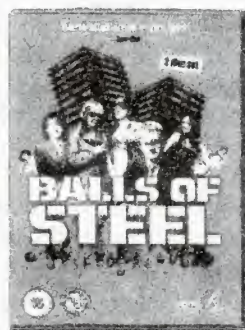
I try to tell him to think about when he's 40. I've lost 2 mates to suicide in the last few years and many more who have just disappeared, just given up. Dawn found an old phone book with loads of numbers the other day. "Who are all these?" she asked. "More like WHERE are these?" I thought. Don Letts, interviewed in Riot 77 mag said "I think children, of the West particularly, are fucking spoiled brats. They got too much. They think there's nothing to fight for and they're wrong because there's always something going down".

When reading *Day The Country Died* I spotted a pic of Brougham Rd where The Mob/96 Tapes were based. On one of our jaunts to London we searched out that road which also was home to The Apostles. We were up and down a nearby road for half an hour, wondering where the fuck it was, scratching our heads at our A-Z. Then we realised half of the road had been knocked down. When we finally found it we were invited into the 96 Tapes gaff where Sean (Rough Trade/ Rugged Bugger) was away seeking the pressing of Blyth Power's first single, and as a result I got number 0001. (sad trainspotting bastard). In the late 70's everywhere I went, even on school trips, I would come back with a classic record, or a long face.

Music *meant* something then. It was something to look at. To seek out. To collect. Can you imagine today's generation when they get to our age. "oh it were a right good laugh, our youth. Sat in, downloaded stuff". I even read in MRR that an anarcho label in the US were charging 8 dollars to DOWNLOAD an album! Fuck's sake!!

BALLS OF STEEL DVD

We're a bit behind the times at NR. 2 years after Brass Eye I finally got to see it, and now thanks to ex NR man Gareth I get a lend of this from 2005, and what a scream it is. Various characters with bollocks compete for the Balls of Steel trophy putting themselves in precarious situations along the way. There's Alex Zane the game show host who rigs quizzes - witness the reaction of the unstable contestants! There's "Men Tester" Dawn Porter who chats up blokes in a bar and invites them back to her's. Then she gets up to go to the bog and the victim finds she's "severely disabled", or has a boyfriend in a gimp suit who 'wants to watch'. There's Big Gay Following ready with his catch phrase "fancy a bum?", and Militant Black Guy who finds something racist in all comments and breaks into a rap of oppression!



Then there's Neg who's sports include baiting security guards with a tag that sets off the alarms ("come on fatty!"), his "Big stranger rodeo" ("you have to stay on for as long as possible" - good job he's a fast runner!) and another game that sees his driving round town in an open topped car, stotting burgers off the heads of an angry public. There's the Pain Men from Dirty Sanchez who get their arses sandpapered with a Black & Decker or raw onion in the eye. There's a pisstake Americanised OTT stunt team from New Zealand, but last & not least is The Annoying Devil who spreads 100's of pieces of dogshit across a busy

city walkway before the men in suits head off to work, he goes on a white knuckle ride with a bag of vomit and parks on double yellow lines in front of a traffic warden, leaving him to book him, only to find out the registration of the devil car says "U R A TWAT" !!

FRANKIE BOYLE live DVD

Star of "Mock The Week" here in a live and uncensored setting in Hackney ("I went for a walk around here today, it's like a fucking holding pen for the Jeremy Kyle show"). Nothing is taboo and no one is safe from the brutal wit of the Scotsman. (On Shannon Matthews) "It's always the ugly ones that turn up alive. Have you seen her fucking mother? The week

she spend hidden under that bed is probably the best time she's had in her fucking life!"

Abusing the audience



is his art form particularly when you're lucky enough for it to include arms brokers and management consultants ("What do you manage? Oh I see - you manage to be an ANNOYING CUNT!"), and woe betide anyone who dares to fuck off mid-show ("did you see that guy leave there as soon as I mentioned the word 'rape' ?!!"). The Royals get their fair share of stick too. "Is it just me or does Camilla look like Diana would've done if she'd survived the crash?"

Alas the DVD doesn't come cheap (£15 in HMV!) so cheers to Gareth for the lend and search for his stuff on You Tube - it's a fucking scream, unless you're an anarcho whinger from Headingley that is.

Many thanks to Steve from online zine SCANNER (www.scannerzine.com) for letting us use this interview, a good read and the first I've seen with em since the 80's... "They've Got it all Wrong" was always easily one of the best anarcho records...

Forget the New York Metal band of the same name, this ANTHRAX hailed from Gravesend, UK and was one of the bands that made up the Anarcho Scene in the early 80s. There was only two official releases, the classic 7" on Small Wonder and a release on Crass Records, although the band also appeared on a Mortarhate compilation. The band has just released a lavishly packaged compilation entitled 'One Last Drop' of all the officially released material plus two early demos. Below is an emailed interview with vocalist Gary 'Oskar' Budd.

..OK, the band recently released its entire back catalogue on the CD, 'One Last Drop'. Why did you choose now to release it - had you considered releasing the compilation at any time previously?

..Oskar) Well, we had thought about releasing it in 2004. We had been approached by the Grand Theft Audio label but decided we would do it ourselves. It seems most of these labels want 74 minutes of material. We only had about 40 minutes and we did not want fill it up with poor live stuff of the same songs.

ANTHRAX

..It's brilliantly packaged with a poster, sticker, badge and mega fold-out sleeve. What made you eschew the popular jewel case/ digipack format in favour of the cardboard foldout? The only thing that let the package down a bit was the lack of band biography. Any specific reason this was over looked?

..Oskar) The jewel case just seemed the norm and not very DIY; just straight off the shelf - no effort. To me, the thing I always like about DIY Punk, was how people put it together (CRASS etc). As for the lack of band info it was basically just over looked as this was our first release - sorry - there'll be more info on the LP!

..The disc is released on your own label - something the original ANTHRAX releases never were. I recall hearing that Overground Records had planned to release it. Why didn't you go with this already established label which, presumably, could have offered instantly better distribution?

..Oskar) Well, we were offered several deals, one of them being Overground Records. But after we thought about it, we realised we had done this with Crass and Small Wonder which was great at the time but trying to get our material back turned into a nightmare. Plus, back then, we did not have the money to do it - now we could and it was something we had always wanted to do. And we are glad we did it as it turned out really well. We could do our own fold out cardboard cover (which the distros liked because it kept the postage down), include a small poster/sticker etc just like we used to do with the fanzine, *Enigma*, plus we could keep the price right. And it took it back to DIY Punk that seems to have got lost along the way. All the small independent distros help us out and it sold really well world wide - and to our surprise is still selling a year on.



..Let's do the history bit - how did you personally 'discover' Punk Rock and what inspired you to take an active roll? I think you got into Punk while still at school in the early 80s - what did your parents think of this new found obsession?

..Oskar) I first got into it through listening to John Peel. Our parents were very supportive. They did not really know what we were doing, but they helped out getting us to the studio and sorting out gear. The band started when we were all at school. We used to use the church hall next to the school at dinner times for free as bassist Rob's dad was the vicar; he also let us print our fanzine, *Enigma*, on the church printer - although he did not actually agree with what we were doing! At first there were lots of us in the band, and we had borrowed a kids drum set off eventual drummer Peter. My dad had got us a Vale PA from his works and the guitar amps were 5 and 10 watt - it was chaos! Finally the line-up changed and we started to sound like a

band. We all left school and got jobs which gave us money to start buying better equipment. Additionally, we got Peter on drums as he had had drumming lessons and was shit hot at the time. Gareth was on guitar along with Dee, Rob was on bass and myself, Oskar, on vocals. Sue came along on vocals later. We did our first gig at the Tam O'Shante in Gravesend and the crowd went mad; the landlady was doing her ironing at the side off the stage and thought a riot was happening as she hadn't seen a Punk gig before!

After that gig we got rid off Rob and Sue, who went on to form FACTION. The band carried on with Dee on guitar, Gareth on bass, Peter on drums and myself. We saved up £90 and went to Oakfield Studios in Herne Bay, Kent to record our first demo which turned out, in our eyes, to be the best recording we did. The studio engineer was really helpful and guided us in the right direction and the backing vocals were by Gravesend Punks and the X-CRETAS. We started selling the demo for £1 and interest started to grow. Then we got 'All The Wars' on the CRASS compilation, 'Bullshit Detector Vol.2'. A copy was



given to the Small Wonder label and we were phoned about putting out a single. Then Eve [Libertine] phoned from CRASS about doing a single and we then started playing gigs with CONFLICT whom we knew as we were at their first gig and had interviewed them for the fanzine.

We went into Southern Studios to record our first single with Small Wonder, but unfortunately the engineer did not get on with Pete - and Pete did not like him! So, it did not get off to a good start. Plus, we would have to travel from Kent to North London right after work which took about two hours only to record early into the next day. But when the single came out it went to #1 in the *Sounds*/ *NME* indie charts which was great - and the late, great John Peel played it a couple of times.

Then we went into Southern to do the CRASS single which was really alien; their recording techniques were very strange to us. They would get us to pick one string at a time and this went on for hours. When we went back to the

studio to hear the final mix they told us they had taken Gareth off the recording and Penny [Rimbaud, CRASS drummer] had played bass on the record. Looking back on it, it was well out of order! None of the band was that keen on the recording; it just sounded like CRASS and not ANTHRAX. But the single did well; also getting to #1 in *Sounds* and *NME* indie chart. We carried on playing about two gigs a week with the likes of CONFLICT, DIRT, RIOT/CLONE, HAGAR THE WOMB, LOST CHERRIES, NAKED, X-CRETAS etc. Then we wrote to THE EX about playing in Holland and they set up a week's worth of gigs which was great.

LINE UP 1: Rob - Bass, Dee - Guitar, Gareth - Guitar, Peter - Drums, Sue - Vocals, Oskar - Vocals

LINE UP 2: Dee - Guitar, Gareth - Bass, Peter - Drums, Oskar - Vocals

LINE UP 3: Dee - Guitar, Gareth - Bass, Peter - Drums, Oskar - Vocals, Shaun - Guitar

LINE UP 4: Dee - Guitar, Lawrence - Bass, Peter - Drums, Oskar - Vocals, Shaun - Guitar

You've already mentioned the zine you did prior to ANTHRAX, *Enigma*. Do you think that the print zine back then held much greater significance than they do today? I recall seeing bands like CONFLICT and just about any Punk band in the 80s and there was a wealth of literature to read and digest. Today, the idea of literature at shows is almost alien - that something you would agree with?

..Oskar) Well, me, Fod and Rob used to do *Enigma* so we met a lot of bands and knew a lot of people doing fanzines. So, it really helped with ANTHRAX. That's how we got THE EX gigs. I don't think people use the technology to its full; we would have killed to have all this at our hands.

..I was interested to read in Ian Glasper's book, *The Day The Country Died*, that ANTHRAX originally had a female singer - something you touched on above. Why didn't you continue with that line-up and was there a vastly different dimension to the band with a female singer?

..Oskar) Well, for one gig, we were getting a bit too CRASS-like so we dropped Sue who went on to form FACTION with Rob.

..Your first record, the classic 'They've Got It All Wrong' EP was released on the then-established Small Wonder Records. Tell us about that.

..Oskar) Our first demo we sold on cassette and a Punk band called THE SNAILS had taken it in to the Small Wonder shop and gave it to Pete Stennet. He phoned us up and asked to come up to his shop to discuss doing a single. Also, about the same time, CRASS had phoned us also about putting out a single. Peter wanted to put out 'Capitalism Is Cannibalism' but CRASS had taken that track so Pete went for 'They Got It All Wrong'; a track that I think was a good choice for Small Wonder.

..It always appeared a diverse but vibrant label, releasing a wealth of Anarcho bands (CRASS, POISON GIRLS, CRAVATS, ANTHRAX) alongside the likes of MENACE, COCKNEY REJECTS, THE CARPETTES and THE WALL - not to mention the first CURE single. What drew you to the label? Had things gone a little different for Small Wonder, what do you think the future would have held for the label?

..Oskar) We all loved the Small Wonder label. We were always sending off for records from the shop as they always sent them quickly. If you ever went into the shop it was like an Aladdin's Cave for Punk. It's a shame the label is not going now as I think they would be putting out some diverse material. Pete had a good ear for the unusual.

..It was after the release of this single that the band's line-up changed, with bassist Gareth leaving to be replaced by former X-CRETAS and future ANTISECT bassist Lawrence and second guitarist Shaun. What did the addition of these guys add to the mix that was previously missing from ANTHRAX? How did the dynamic of the band change with these new members?

..Oskar) Well, Dee used to play guitar with the X-CRETAS and Peter would play drums for them from time to time. So

Gareth had gone - which was never an easy or good thing to do as we were best mates from school. To me and Shaun, Lawrence was a sound choice as we had gigged together a lot with the two guitars. We could get the studio to overdub the live guitar sound so it sounded a lot fuller.

..It was also around this time that the band toured Holland with Dutch band THE EX. It's often said that bands get treated that much better in Europe than they do in the UK; what differences were immediately apparent between playing in the UK and on mainland Europe?

..Oskar) We were shocked when we went to Holland! They put 13 of us up, fed us, paid for playing - to us then, it was a big money night of £120, free beer (bad mistake for 18 year olds) a cooked meal before gigs - where by in England you were lucky to get your petrol money and a good kicking!

..ANTHRAX's next release, the 'Capitalism Is Cannibalism' EP for Crass Records. Given the standing of CRASS at that time (1983), was it a little daunting working with the undoubted figureheads of an entire scene?

..Oskar) We had sent CRASS our first demo which they liked and put 'All The Wars' on 'Bullshit Detector Vol. 2'. Then Eve phoned me to ask if we would like to put out 'Capitalism Is Cannibalism' on Crass Records which we jumped at. It was very daunting at the time - and even more so in the studio.



..There are a few contestable issues about this single - predominantly due to the post-production techniques of Penny Rimbaud and John Loder. Gareth's bass was removed yeah - and various other bits were added - what was your immediate reaction to the mix and has that opinion changed in any way given the passing of time?

..Oskar) Well, we were a bit shocked that they had taken him off the recording. He did play badly that day but I think nerves got the better off him and he was still part off the band. Dee spent hours picking notes on the guitar and hated it - but we didn't really know what else they did. It was not one of our better studio experiences but at the time we were a bit star struck by CRASS. We have never been keen on the CRASS recording and will be re-recording 'Capitalism Is Cannibalism' soon in a way that is more true to how it should have been.

..We touched on violence at shows back in those early 80s, but your local venue at Gravesend seems to have avoided a lot of the nihilistic and petty Punk violence that continually surfaced back then. What made Gravesend exempt do you think?

..Oskar) We knew everybody and the Kent Hell's Angels used to drink there - so trouble makers kept away.

..A lot of the violence seemed to be between the skinhead/Oil and the CRASS Peace/Anarcho Punk movements. What were your opinions then - and now - of that Oil/ chaos side of Punk Rock? What part do you believe that Garry Bushell (singer of the risible GONADS and gutter press journo) had to play in this friction? Was it not he who prevented an interview with ANTHRAX appearing in Sounds?

..Oskar) The man was an arse looking for an ego boost. As for the Oil thing, we liked bands like MENACE/ ANGELIC UPSTARTS - it was only him trying to make his own brand of Punk by sticking a label on these bands.

..There was a second tour of Holland yeah - one that was particularly disastrous apparently - why was this so bad?

..Oskar) Dee did NOT go so we had lost our lead guitarist, and the band was coming to an end by then - the rot was setting in!

..I have to ask about the track that appeared on Mortarhate's 'Who? What? Why? When? Where?' compilation, 'It'll Be Alright On The Night'. Its keyboard-laced arrangement seems so different from the material ANTHRAX had released previously - what happened there? Was this possibly leading to a similar direction as BLITZ did with its latter day material, even though lyrically 'It'll Be Alright...' was as pointed as ever and the guitar was to the fore?

..Oskar) No, we did not intend to come out with that kind of sound. We did not own any keyboards. But when we went into the studio they had a Moog keyboard there which Dee started playing with and it ended up on the recording. That was our last time in the studio and our last song, so I don't really know where it would have gone...

..Why did the band split? Given some of the line-up changes, can you pin point - given the benefits of hind sight - the beginning of the end for ANTHRAX? Your comments in 'The Day The Country Died' suggest that the main reason for the split was sheer frustration at the level of violence at shows back then - that true?? Had the band continued for just one more year - what do you think it may have achieved and how do you think it would have sounded?

..Oskar) I think, at the time, the band had run its course; the band had burnt itself out. The gigs were getting the "same-old

same-old" travelling all the way to London to find out we were no longer on the bill. There was lots of Right Wing violence, so it was time to pull the plug. Thinking back now, if we had taken a year off and then gone back. it might have worked. As for how we would have sounded - who knows!?

..Do you feel the subjects ANTHRAX tackled back in the early 80s are still relevant today?

..Oskar) Yeah, it's all still there - War, environment, individual liberties - nothing seems to change.

..Looking back at the duration of ANTHRAX, do you have any regrets or changes that you would now implement? If you had to choose just one memory of the band, what would it be?

..Oskar) No regrets; only Gareth leaving - not that that would have changed anything - that is how it was meant to be. Our first time in the studio with a really good engineer and listening to the demo from that scene - which I still think is better than both singles and only cost £90 - would be a highlight.

..Has the band ever been approached to reform for the Holidays In The Sun shows or any other reason? Has the band ever reunited, even if it's just for kicks?

..Oskar) We were asked if we would play at some shows, but I don't think it would be our kind of thing, plus it takes us about two months to arrange for us to meet up as everybody is so busy with their families. We have been in rehearsals, twice which was fun.

..Are any of the band still involved with music? Do you hear anything today that has the same impact - or that you could imagine on the youth of today - on you as individuals that CRASS or any of those early Punk bands had on you?

..Oskar) Yes, Shaun still plays live, Gareth is still pottering and so am I. Yes, there is still loads off good stuff out there and it's a lot easier to get your music heard with the internet.

AND NOW, THE END IS NEAR???

When I did my first fanzine 25+ years ago there were more fanzines being printed in Benwell Resource centre (2 miles outside Newcastle) than there are now in the whole of the UK, a pretty grim statistic.

Printing prices have also soared to the extent where even if I sold every single copy I would still make a loss. And while there's still a small but dedicated crowd of people around who genuinely love their punk rock and make every effort to check out new bands, buy the records, buy the fanzines, go to the gigs etc, this is a mere fraction of a scene too busy indulging in hopeless nostalgia, sending friends requests to people on My Space whom they've never bothered with for years and probably still won't bother with. Slaves to their computers, some of whom probably only ever see a barmaid once a year on Nasty Friday (just before Xmas) let alone support the gigs.



90percent of review freebies I get sent (the one and only perk of doing a zine) are mediocre at best. A new generation has emerged and they just don't seem to have the knack that the 77 crowd had. The lyrics are generally banal, the music almost always a direct copy of a million other forgettable bands (whether it's HC, ska punk, folk punk or whatever). There were more great bands in the UK in 77 than there probably are now in the world. I hate mindless nostalgia - I am always on the lookout for a great new band - but it's become like finding a trace of compassion in James Purnell or something.

Hell, even the standard of PRESENTATION of freebies has plummeted and now 1 out of every 2 comes complete with nothing but a shitty little card sleeve (and A4 sheet of bullshit) that says "fuck you little fanzine, this is all you're worth". Excelling themselves in this department this issue are Fat Wreck who sent me a Swingin Utters album in the form of a bit of card with a secret code on it. I think the idea must be that I'm supposed to go on the website, fuck about with this secret code and download the goddamn thing, and still review it. Aye right. What next, will I have to ring a number and they play it down the phone to me?

The country - the world? - has given up and if you can't beat em I guess you just gotta join em!

Fuck knows if *Negative Reaction* will make a comeback in the long run, but for now I have gotten the job of guest reviewer in Belfast's **Back 2 Front** zine, so anyone that still sends me stuff I will review it in there, and continue to raise hell on forums like the hypocritical bastard I am. trevhagl@yahoo.co.uk

A whinger until the bitter end eh? And yet it isn't ALL bad. When you see the finished product you get a sense of achievement akin to getting through to speak to someone on a government "help" line. There's the reviews in other zines giving smug satisfaction, or even better, a slagging by some po-faced cunt. I've met lots of good people over the years, who I've drank with, traded recs with, lent DVDs/books etc to/from. I still get people from years ago popping up on the internet saying how much they used to enjoy HAGL. So why didn't they buy THIS one? The lying patronising cunts. But the best thing about it all is THE POWER! Knowing that with just a flick of a keyboard, you could, for example, tell the story of Felling Mick falling down Chris's tattoo shop stairs, and know his mates will take the piss relentlessly for years to come!!

Oi Oi that's yer lot! ...or IS it?

REVIEWS

ARTERIES- Blood Sweat & Beers CD (*Household Name*). Red Alert may have beaten em to the album title eons ago but these are pretty original thanks to some unique riffs. The bass playing and production are first class, but it's held back by the Dischord Recs style screaming (the singer can actually sing in places so blame the trend I guess). The lyrics too are of a personal nature which went straight over my head despite the promise of titles like "Steal Something". (4/10)

BLUE COLLAR CRIMINALS - Kindred Spirits & Unheard Cries CD (*H8 Piece recs*). As this label repeatedly sends stuff to Oi Warning I was fearing NYHC tuff guy stuff here but thankfully, while it does nod towards that style in places, it's on the whole good semi tuneful yet hard as nails US Oi, the sort of thing Street Anthem would put out, with nods to US ROUGHNECKS and BLOOD FOR BLOOD. Songs vary from boozin & brawlin to hard upbringings and the depressing reality of life in a shit job in Arizona. They throw in covers of Last Resort and (fuck me) Dire Straits! Good to see a label who is down to earth and trades too. www.myspace.com/bluecollarcriminalsaz (8/10)

CITY 13- Better Late Than Never Again CD (www.city13.co.uk). Since Tucci stopped catering for proper blokes I've wondered who shops there - now I know! The press sheet boasts of their energetic performance and I can well imagine em darting around the stage as if someone is taking pot shots at em for being about the millionth Battle Of The Bands /sixth form local newspaper press darlings to grace the music scene. The rhythm guitar has a bit grit to it, the mastering is pretty powerful but at the end of the day it's 10 more songs devoid of soul and meaning. I am going to get a t-shirt made up saying "bitter old cunt". (4/10)

DEATH IS NOT GLAMOUROUS- Undercurrents MCD (*Dead And Gone*). These shared a split 7" with DOWN & OUTS and now their label too. They hail from Norway but sound American, mixing 80's positive hardcore with a slight trendy edge. Remind me a bit of 7 SECONDS. Songs about the futility of work in dead end jobs and a "don't let the bastards grind you down" message. (6/10)

DEATH WITH A DAGGER/KULMA SOTA - split 7" (*Fight recs - www.kolumbus.fi/fight*). Crust has never been my forte but this is Finland - what else would I expect? DWAD kick things off with 2 songs of heavy fast punk with **Motorhead** riffs. **Kulma Sota** do the **Discharge** meets Finnish meets Jap crust sorta thing. Plenty of treble, plenty of crash cymbal which adds an edge lacking in the latest **Discharge** CD. Good pressing/mastering too. Not

BOOK REVIEW - MURAT KURNAZ- Five Years of My Life, an innocent man in Guantanamo

Daily beatings, humiliation, sleep deprivation, electric shocks, and even air deprivation (plus hot/ cold torture). Murat's tale captures all the sadism of the US military in gruesome detail. They left him dangling from the ceiling for days, got female guards to humiliate him after being ordered to strip naked, locked him up for hours in a virtually airless container, fired tear gas in it, sprayed him with pepper spray, woke him up every hour and marched him to another block. And he hadn't even committed a crime. Bush even got the newspapers to print a picture of a huge meal with the caption "so this is torture?" - the truth however was the inmates got 3 slices of toast and half an apple a day to ensure they were too weak to fight back. Proper proper sick bastards.

something I could listen to but it appears to be done well. (5/10)

DOWN & OUTS- Friday Nights Monday Mornings CD (*Dead And Gone*). Long, long awaited 2nd album by these scousers who play an updated form of street punk with mob choruses. No great departure from their first album, although it's a game of two halves. Some great songs like "Living for the weekend" "Pocket Money Punks" and split 7" track "Anchors Away" make you think yer gonna get another classic but later on in the CD the anthems become rarer and it sort of fizzles out. (7/10)

FIRE EXIT- Let The Show Begin CD (www.myspace.com/fireexituk). Scots band that go way back to the late 70's, with another new album. Packaging is a bit skimpy but there's no shortage of ideas. A whole range of influences adorn the inner sleeve, from Mick Ronson to Ian Dury to Clash to Sensational Alex Harvey Band, and indeed all kinds of things are going on here. I'm that used to every 'street punk' band trying to be like Rancid or Street Dogs these days that when something ORIGINAL comes along I'm at a bit of a loss how to describe it, but (here goes) this has dark rocky riffs a la **The Blood's** "Se Parere Nex" or **Penetration's** "Moving Targets", **Section 5** type vocals and anthemic 77 style choruses. Quite a mixture but it works well. (6/10)

HANSON BROTHERS- It's a Living CD (*Wrong via Southern distribution*). This came with a wacky press sheet which makes a change from the "best thing since sliced bread" bullshit I normally get - shame Southern can't lighten up too what with their "this promo is our property" blah blah blah stickers (I think you'll find anything that comes thru my door is MINE). Hanson Bro's were a spin off from NO MEANS NO, one of the chosen bands of the smug know-it-alls who I argue with on forums. But that's not to say these were arty, in fact they knocked out a powerful racket with a slight nod to THE RAMONES and the heavy bass playing you might expect. HB played better music than NMN but the off the wall lyrics went right over my head. This CD is great quality anyway, and flip it over and you get the Hanson Bro's guide to making home brew (bugger all use to me cos I'm oot on the lash all the time) (6/10)

HIFI SPITFIRES- The 11th Hour CD (www.myspace.com/hifispitfires). Since the split of Holy Racket, Steve has kept himself busy with **Loaded 44** and now these, also featuring Nelly on drums. The trouble with having a distinctive voice is that a) you will always get compared to your previous band (this sounds like a rawer Racket, even down to the bass lines), and b) the songs tend to sound the same after a while. This is fresh and energetic sounding with some good and some average tunes. (6/10)

ICE NINE- Walking On Broken Glass CD (H8-Piece) . The cover told me that I would not like this - 2 geezers with backwards baseball caps and another with long hair. Yes it's American HC, somewhere between a straight edge sound and NYHC sound. These are 1990/1992 demos so the mix is rough around the edges with the frantic drumming high in the mix. No worse than most bands of this ilk, but something I will always struggle with (4/10)

I.C.H.- You Won't Like It CD

(www.ichcolchesterpunkx) . Bit of a 'loaded' title that and I do indeed like it. Reminds me of the very best of 80's anarcho punk yet has a sense of humour. Off the wall song titles ("Smells Like Community Spirit", "Punch the Taxman", "My First Political Song (Early Learning Centre style)"), good tunes, great original lyrics; it's all totally at odds with the bland Crass rip off cover. If you like **The Subhumans** you will like this, and all 16 tracks (apart from one unimaginative fast punker) are good throughout with no arty filler bits. (8/10)

IRON GUTS KELLY- Axe To Grind CD (H8-Piece). Tuff guy HC with the mentality of STARS & STRIPES and SOD. The opener "Death March" romanticises war, turning it into an almost comic book style mission to wipe out religious nutters in far off lands. I don't think IGK can grasp that a) most of the people murdered in Iraq lived in fear of Islamic warlords anyway, and b) if it's religious terrorists you're after, look no further than your own Republicans. Next up is "Killing Fields" which invites vigilante attacks on sex offenders. I see their point but I hope the Americans fare better than our News Of The World readers who attacked a paediatrician and put the windows out of someone with the same surname as a kiddy fiddler! From thereon it becomes less controversial but I did some digging into their My Space site and found that they refuse to acknowledge friends requests from racists and homophobes and nor do they welcome them from left or right extremists (fair enough but I would hardly call an illegal war leaving thousands of innocent civilians dead "middle of the road" politics!) (5/10)

KILLROY- Football Chants & Angry Rants CD (www.myspace.com/killroypunk).

One of the first US Oi punk bands here with a new (or at least rerecorded) album, but unlike many US Oi bands, these don't go down the Agnostic Front route (thankfully), preferring instead to look to the UK for inspiration (they even do a version of "Borstal Breakout" with different lyrics, and Rejects "Bad Man"). The lyrics go all out to be dumb (drinking fighting fucking) but there's some good tunes here and the overall feel is like a cross between **Radicts** (not lyrically!) and **Resistance 77** (6/10)

LET'S DANCE- Summer Breeze 7" (Longshot). Fuck knows what's going on with the cover here, a band logo like the one on Cult Maniax's LP (and *they* wanted to kill the

person who did it), an oil pylon blowing it's load, and schoolboy lettering. Musically it's pretty decent basic modern punk with a slight nod to 77 (with a cover of "Bodies" thrown in; note to all bands - never attempt a cover of something that was done perfect in the first place). The singing though sounds like something out of battle of the bands, yelping his way to rock success and the lyrics are pure tack. Saving grace is Mike Longshot's determination to give his bands only the best in packaging, with poster, clear/multicolour splatter vinyl and even 3D BRIEFS style specs... (4/10)

LOADED 44- We Saved The World CD

(www.myspace.com/loaded44uk) . This band have been around for years but only the guitarist remains, and he is joined by Nelly from The Lurkers on drums, Steve (ex Holy Racket) on bass, and Steve's lass Beki on vocals. This is actually a CDR but so well done it's hard to tell. Ramonesy guitar with bass lines and singing that deviates from the chords. Beki is one of the best female singers around, great voice and a true performer live. The first two songs (the title track and "Let's Get Away") are great slices of rocking pop punk, while "10 Years" and "Radio" ain't far behind, although the 3 songs in the middle don't quite match up, despite being similar in sound. (8/10)

MARCHING ORDERS 10" (Longshot)

Oz band with "something to say" although that seems to revolve entirely around slagging off anarchists (if they lived in this country I'm sure they'd find more things than that to worry about). Musically though it's the usual bag of good UK82 style Oi tunes, well played, terrace chant choruses. Another top quality package from Mike- colour vinyl, lyric insert and an amusing photo-booth cover which shows one of them getting ready to shoot you and the others looking suitably criminal (mind you they haven't seen my bus pass!). (7/10)

MEAN STREETS- That Day 7" (Longshot)

Pretty much like their other single on another label. This boasts a powerful production job just the right side of radio friendly. It comes in somewhere between a less raw **RADICTS** and **SWINGIN UTTERS** (without the folk). Fine for a 7" but I fear by the time they get round to an album it will soon get predictable, as these sort of bands lack the spirit and sentiments of the original wave of punkers. Nothing to distinguish them from the pack. Comes on nice blue and white vinyl. (6/10)

RAZORBLADE- Music For Maniacs CD

(*Rebellion*). "We are skinheads, who the fuck are you?" (that's a quote from one of the songs) basically sums it up. Hard edged Dutch Oi from Wouter (*Rebellion*)'s band that bears a close resemblance to **CONDEMNED 84**. This is as good as anything they've done before but don't expect much deviation from drinking & fighting, although "Wolves in Sheep's Clothes" is quite original (I dunno if its satire or what

BOOK REVIEW- COLIN BERRY- The Deniable Agent

If you think YOUR job is shit imagine having to buy back weapons from the Taliban (that the CIA sold em in the first place when they were fighting Russia) at a time when anti Brit/US feelings are running high and you're the only white man for miles around. Using a flimsy cover story of offering to build cheap houses and schools, Colin sets off on many a dangerous mission in deepest Afghanistan. An ambush, shoot out, M16/CIA inter-rivalry, and finally a set up, prison, torture and abandonment by his handlers. He is only here now to tell the tale because his wife pressed the UK Govt for his release.

but I've been forever trying to work out why people spend £400 on a (Stone Island) jacket...esp if they're going out fighting in it!??? (6/10)

SKIDS- The Absolute Game CD (Captain Oi!)

This was the one with the dull marble/stone style cover that came with a bonus LP (first 20,000 copies). That LP, "Strength Through Joy", is included here as bonus tracks but it's really just fucking about in the studio or half finished songs that grind on you like nails being dragged down a wall, sort of "If Wire could get away with it we'll have a go". Anyway onto the first course. I thought "The Absolute Game" was dreadful as a kid but to be honest there are some good riffs/tunes in there, namely "Circus Games", "Out of Town" (already released on "Masquerade" dble 7") and a couple of others. However, the extensive sleeve notes mention that this album was a big influence on U2, and that pretty much sums it up. Radio friendly - a band "grown" up, and as for the lyrics....well no wonder Jobson went on to direct long winded pretentious films like "16 Years of Alcohol" and no wonder either that the 2nd wave of punk emerged to save us from the first wave bands, most of whom had similarly burnt out and got too full of themselves. (4/10)

SLICK 46- I Don't Wanna CD (Longshot)

After hearing thousands of new bands playing proficient music that's spoilt by a crap singer, I guess it's good to hear a very basic raw punk band with a GOOD singer. (The drummer's not going to be the next Keith Moon). The terrace chant backing vocals are also done well, in the spirit of UK82 Oi, but the choruses are too repetitive for words. Lyrically quite well written and original but they need some tightening up before they think of making the big league. (5/10)

SLICK 46/HARRINGTON SAINTS - Split 7"

(Longshot). Oz band S46 give us 2 more songs of raw basic Oi/punk (and I can't really say any more than what I did in their review above, although it works better on a 7"). Harrington Saints are a promising new US band who fit into the Longshot roster nicely, coming somewhere between MEAN STREETS and MARCHING ORDERS. Comes on a lovely splatter red vinyl. (6/10 // 7/10)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT HEROES- S/T LP / Superiority Complex 10" LP (Longshot)

This Canadian band released 2 CDs on Longshot when it was based in their native Canada some years ago, and here they are now on vinyl. Why? Well apparently to coincide with a US tour (w/Lower Class Brats) and a Canadian tour (w/DOA). They played (and probably still do play) semi tuneful punk that mirrors Mike Longshots recent signings like MEAN STREETS- decent tunes, but lacking any real anthems or distinguishing features. No expense spared with these releases- the S/T LP is on splatter vinyl and comes in G/fold sleeve while the 10" comes in cutaway sleeve and splatter vinyl. (6/10 each)

ZIP GUNS - S/T 7" (Longshot)

Zip Guns? The cover is more like LA GUNS! But behind the tack we get some good rockin punk that doesn't fall into the trap of overproduction like the Scandinavians. 4 tracks here with the B side especially recommended. I would expect this sort of band to cover THE HEARTBREAKERS or DEAD BOYS but they pull off a really good cover of "I'm On Heat", the singer sounding nothing like Howard Wall (or Arthur for that matter), yet still equalling the original. If you liked THE DEPRESSIONS this one's for you. (7/10)

CHEAPSKATE PROMOS / CDR's etc

CIVET- Hell Have No Fury CD (Hellcat via Division PR).

There seems to be a glut of these rockin female punk bands at the moment. Most run out of steam and cross the divide into rock after a few songs but these keep going like they mean it. Cross the best bits of Girlschool with Joan Jett, give it twice the bollocks (or whatever the girl equivalent is) and one of the best production/mastering jobs yer likely to hear and that's Civet's album. (7/10)

DAMNED- So Who's Paranoid? (The English Channel). The opener "A Nation Fit For Heroes" and "A Danger To Yourself" are cracking tuneful songs echoing the best stuff from The Black Album ("Wait For The Blackout" etc). There are a few more tunes with the odd good riff but the bulk of this is slow plodding morbid tedium which sounds like it was made up in the studio to fill out the playing time and pocket another few grand. Messrs Vanian and Sensible should be sat down and made to listen to Machine Gun Etiquette. (4/10)

DISTRICT-Poverty Makes Angry CD (People Like You)

. Now called "2nd District" but if there's been a line up change it's hard to tell. Their brand of UK style glam meets 77 punk has had me hooked since their split LP with Bad News, though I thought their last effort was a bit disappointing. This is a 'grower' and the immediate standout is the anthem "Sporting Socks and Sandals" (not exactly something you could chant while walking down the street, but GREAT music!). As the CD title suggests the Germans do struggle with their English at times, and the vocals with their twisted glam edge won't appeal to everyone, but, for me, they rarely disappoint. (7/10)

FAKE PROBLEMS- It's Great To Be Alive CD (Side One Dummy via Division PR) A band you can't exactly accuse of being copycats as this takes in all kinds of influences from country/folk to indie-rock, 70's rock riffs and even a bit music hall. I guess the closest overall feel is something like **Against Me** but it just didn't gel for me. (3/10)

FORNICATORS- Promo CD & The Attractive Revolution CDS (peter.punk@telia.com). The band's logo looks like one of those bad thrash metal bands from the late 80's but musically they are not bad. A bit too much like Rancid (wish I had a £1 for every band I said THAT about!) but some decent tunes and quite a bit of thought put in the riffs. (6/10 each)

GERMAN OI/PUNK - after years of bad metal there seems to be a lot of good bands emerging on labels like Sunny Bastards/Contra Punk. COMBAT 77 play some great singalong, well recorded punk/Oi with female vocals reminiscent of The Avengers. Lyrically nothing special but musically top rank. THE RUCKERS, despite being an Oi band, have more in common musically with those great independent punk bands of UK78 - fast and ultra catchy punk, although their German/English translator we suspect is having a laugh... "Ruckers...knuckle shuffle" indeed! There's also good stuff from STRONGBOW (another Social Distortion type band but with a bit originality thrown in) and GUTS N GLORY play some good tuneful streetpunk

GOLDBLADE- Mutiny CD (Captain Oi)

The masters of the singalong chorus are back and while it's never 100% clear where John Robb is going with the lyrics, anthems like "Riot Riot!", "Jukebox Generation", America Destroys All It's Heroes" and "Beyond God and Elvis" are up there with the best of em. This is almost as good as "Rebel Songs" but whereas their last album had 2 great songs to go out on, this one sorta fizzles out towards the end. (8/10)

I AM GHOST- Those We Leave Behind CD (Epitaph). As you can probably guess by the shit name, these play a mixture of radio friendly pop punk/emo with metal breakdowns where the singer shouts like a fucking idiot ('screamo' they call it). Some good tunes and riffs here, but all in vain as the finished product is utterly soulless. I have been sceptical about punk labels flirting with 'the trend' since No Future jumped on the New Romantic bandwagon in 83, and all kudos Epitaph once had has went down the pan in the last 5 years. (3/10)

ME FIRST & THE GIMME GIMMES - Have Another Ball CD (Fat Wreck) You know the drill here - musically they do a fine job of punking up mainstream fare like "Country Roads", "Don't Let The sun", "I Write The Songs" etc but the vocals are just as bad as the originals, which sort of defeats the object. They badly need a rabble rousing OTT singer like Fat Bob from Hard Skin.. Otherwise the joke is wasted. (6/10)

PROFANE- CDREP (contact treefrogalex@yahoo.co.uk). Cornwall punk band I was expecting to write off as predictable after seeing the riot cop cover but they have promise and a couple of songs have a classic early UK SUBS edge to em. It'll be interesting to see what happens a year down the line. (6/10)

REAL McKENZIES- Off The Leash CD (Fat Wreck) One of the few punk/folk bands with any character, this is certainly no worse than any of their other albums with some good singalongs like "Kings of Fife" "Lads Who Fought & Won" etc and it has something alien to most of their contemporaries - variation. Some great bass lines and a hard edge running through most of it, with fine anti royalty sentiments amongst the tales of drinking. (7/10)

UNDERCLASS-Gratuitous CDR (www.myspace.com/underclass). Stu (of Control, the 90's Oi-zine) fame is back where the CDEP left off. 17 tracks of rocky street punk which is a bit much considering many tracks hover around (and even top) the 4 minute mark. There's some good ideas in places but it lacks direction and tends to drag. (4/10)

VIOLENT FUCKWITS-Ignore The pain CDEP (billuriot@hotmail.com). Kicks off with a reggae title track in similar vein to "Magnum Force" but not quite as memorable. "Fucked Beyond Redemption" (best track by far from their album) and "Guaranteed For The Boys" are great singalong punk with strong vocals and original lyrics (although the music is raw as fuck) and there's also another airing of "Johnny Nobody", another catchy number. If they had better equipment (& studio) to match the songs these could be one of the best bands in the UK. (7/10)

XONEWAYX/YOUTH OF STRENGTH-Split CD (Xfist via Division PR). Two joke straight edge bands; zero packaging - just what the doctor ordered (or maybe not). Well actually considering one of XOneWayX used to be in appalling emo band Thursday, this

is better than I'd have expected (some good riffs in there)...but fucking hell man, Crucial Youth were doing this 20 years ago and the joke wore thin by their 2nd release. (5/10)

LABELS/AGENCY CONTACTS

All website addresses start with www...

CAPTAIN OI- PO Box 501, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP10 8QA.
captainoi.com
COLOSSUS PRESS- colossuspress@gmail.com
DEAD & GONE- deadandgonerecords.com
DIVISION PROMOTIONS- james@caughtinthecrossfire.com
FAT WRECK- fatwreck.com
H8 PIECE RECS - www.myspace.com/8piecerecords
HOUSEHOLD NAME- householdnamerecords.co.uk
JSNTGM- PO Box 1025, Blackpool, FY3 0FA
KJELL HELL- kjellhell.se
KOI- koirecords.com / mark@koirecords.com
LONGSHOT- longshotmusic.com
MINT - mintrecs.com
NOT ON YOUR RADIO - notonyourradio.com
PEOPLE LIKE YOU- peoplelikeyourecords.com
PUNK SHIT- Rich, 74 Bristnallhall Rd, Oldbury, W.Midlands B68 6TU
REBELLION - rebellion records.nl / myspace.com/rebellion records
REV HQ (Revelation) - revhq.com
ROWDY FARRAGO- destructors666.com
SCAMPKID - scampkidrecords.com
SECRET- secretrecordslimited.com
SKULLDUGGERY SERVICES - skulduggery@btinternet.com / Tel +44 (0)208 429 0853
SOUTHERN STUDIOS - southern.net

FANZINES

ANARCHOI no.24 £2ppd- Jamesy, 3 Hazel Grove, Killwinning, Ayrshire KA13 7JH, Scotland. Defo an improvement on the last one, some decent interviews with **Uproar, Responsa, Bladder Spasms, Death Zone** and **Lobotomies**, plus a good SHAC benefit gig review and the usual CD/record reviews which are even more chaotic than the layout itself. Has anyone got Chaotic Discord's "Bad" LP cos they need to sit Jamesy down and make him listen to "Hey Goth Fuck Off". The shame.

BACK 2 FRONT no.4- £2.50ppd? - Danny, Box F, 67 Tannaghmore Rd, Ballynahinch, BT24 8NU.
Professional colour cover and a right chunky read. Gets off to a dull start with a long, scientific piece on global warming and the Chomsky interview is a bit theoretical but there's lots of mini interviews with various anarcho bands old and new who played Feeding of the 5000 gathering. There's interviews with Ian Bone from Class War, **Anima Mundi** and the promoter of a big punks picnic/festival in Ireland (what a fucking nightmare to organise, and that's without having to deal with Blood or Whiskey!) and a great one with **Inner Terrestrials** whose views on democracy are spot on and who win the diplomat of the year award for their answers to Conflict questions! Topped off by some good, honest reviews and a well deserved swipe at tightarse bands/labels who tell Danny to check em out on My Space instead of sending him the goodies.

GIG - STATIC THOUGHT - Trillians jan 09

Another band all the way from America playing to a piss poor crowd. Where were all the trendsetters from the CAREER SUICIDE gig from a few months back? Because this is exactly the type of stuff we were given tonight - US80's style HC. Not something I could listen to on record, but live, they properly went for it. No student shit here, just powerful get up and go stuff backed by a powerhouse drummer. Some good licks from the guitarist (clippers, Stanley market, only six pounds) too, and audience participation high on the agenda - they set their stall up in the middle of the crowd, and we had a good bit crack with their stand in singer, who seemed a top bloke. But at £1.50 a pint and £1 in you have to ask - WHAT THE FUCK'S THE MATTER WITH PEOPLE?

BALD CACTUS no.26

- £1ppd from Andy Cactus, 145-149 Cardigan Rd, Leeds, LS6 1LJ. Celebrating 20 years of zines with far more in it than usual but I would prefer to pay twice the price and have readable type size. Interviews with **Social Parasites**, **Inner Terrestrials**, **Fuck With Fire** and **Dick (Subhumans)**. The interviews are very political and you can see clearly where the bands stand. There's also some good outspoken articles on scabs and suchlike, a free teabag and an unusual gig section done in the form of top trumps. Oh and Pete Wright of Crass contributes a well written article because he couldn't be bothered to do the interview

BARBIES DEAD no.25

- 50p & 42p SAE - Alex, Woodhouse, The Square, Gunnislake, Cornwall, PL18 9BW. Loads of short but opinionated reviews, a good piece on the credit crunch (saying how the media would probably have never reported it if it didn't start affecting the middle classes), and all kinds of short articles from sport (Zzzz) to crap furniture to lazy kids getting lifts to nearby schools (do you begrudge them a gut like mine?). Lots of personality shining through and a healthy dose of grumbling esp when he's sent stuff like The Macc Lads.

BEAT MOTEL no.8

- £1.50 plus 66p SAE - Andrew, PO Box 773, Ipswich, IP1 9FT. Another chunky issue crammed with stuff. There's short irreverent interviews with **Pama International**, **Billy Riot**, **Inner Terrestrials** and more, and loads of columns on the topic "nationality" (some good/funny, some a bit stale) plus others that stray from the subject (I especially liked Trainman's and Mainy Diablo's about visiting the well man clinic which somehow turns out hilarious). There's some good graphics, a reprint of a desecrated BNP membership form (which he sent back without a stamp) shitload of reviews which vary from descriptive and accurate to "can't be bothered" - mind you as 80 percent of it sounds horrific, neither could I! The zine reviews were better, Andrew's enthusiasm shining through.

FAILSAFE

- £1 & 66p SAE - david, 8 Henry Rd, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 2BE. This one features Jack Rabid (the Big Takeover zine), Jesse Malin (**Heart Attack**) and Sally Timms who later joined **The Mekons**. Steeped in nostalgia, the editor can hold his own with any collector nerd and whereas I spend the 80's in an alcoholic daze, David remembers every single gig, song, record. The interviews are really good, flowing, taped conversations although Sally Timms seems "above" all that nasty working class punk that came out in the 80's and it would take a braver man than I to listen to her new country stuff. The reviews are really good/critical/factual (except where he hands the reins over to others who seem a bit starstruck at times, esp the Pistols review) and the pictures/printing quality are ace. Anyone looking to check out new bands are wasting their time though - David hasn't reviewed zines because all the ones he's seen lately he 'can't bear' except Fast n Loud (and this one, aw shucks) and I am guessing he thinks the same about today's bands....

FAST N LOUD

- £1.50 plus 66p A4 SAE from John, 88 Overbrook Rd, Hardwicke, Glos. At the printers as we speak but support this as he's another one thinking of giving up after printing costs soar (not only that but apparently post offices are almost extinct in Glos). It features int's with Brian James, Eddie from the Vibrators, Apocalypse Babies and a retro bit on Demob & bit on Concrete Gods.

OI WARNING! No.6

- £3ppd from Sean, PO Box 333, Clenchwarton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 4WU. Another huge easy to read issue. **Fear City** get the ball rolling with a bit of a recurring theme for US Oi bands this issue. Quote (when talking about promoters not touching the band) "Yeah we sometimes start shit here and there and there is a fight once in a while at our shows, but this is Oi/street punk, all about violence and shit"!!!! It's almost as if, because the bands are anti-racist, they gotta make up for it elsewhere with redneck comments! Other than that, some

good observations on soulless trendy music, apathy etc. Most bands covered are from the US like **Iron City Hooligans**, **Brassknuckle Saints** etc, there's quite a few from Italy (who tend to be more sussed on the whole) plus various other quarters of the globe. There is a SHITLOAD of reviews - Sean must spend every living minute cadging stuff on My Space - and if you are more into the NYHC tuff guy sort of bands this is a goldmine of info, and even though I'm not I still found some good stuff thanks to this.

RIOT ON YER OWN 29-

free with 42p SAE- Bill, 5 Glen Rd, Belfast, BT5, N Ireland. Interviews with **Axis of** and **Septic Pussy** interviews plus big Rebellion piece and the usual detailed and hilarious reviews and bits on Joy Division etc. Well written and still punk as fuck.

RIOT 77 no.13

- contact riot77magazine@hotmail.com. The daddy of all zines returns and once again it's another corker. It's still in league with the opticians but that is about the only fault and here we have great indepth interviews with **John Cooper Clarke**, **Damaged Goods** recs, **Aggrolites**, **Don Letts** and the overated, but coming across well on paper, **Dillinger 4**. I am a bit concerned about Cian's musical taste as rockabilly, Holly Golightly and No Idea recs fest all get hefty coverage, but even these bits are readable. Cian is neither a crawler nor vindictive and so all the reviews are detailed and objective. Dodgy politics are not excused but neither is he a humourless cunt. It's peppered with pro layout and great pictures. You can get this in the UK (while stocks last) for £4 incl post from trevhagl@hotmail.com

Only when you see it will you know it's worth the price.

RUNNIN FEART

- £2 ppd- Callum Masson, 12 Crusader Cres, Stewarton, Ayrshire, Scotland, KA3 3BL. Bit of a commercial suicide issue with only **Deadline** in it that anyone's heard of, but who cares at least he's putting bands in that he wants to. Int's with young punks **The Fallen**, Goths **Zico Chain**, **Auslander** and ex Grunts **Joe Viterbo**. Over half of this is taken up with reviews of varying reliability, Baz's being the most detailed. Brilliantly put together as always with loads of top quality pics and printing and READABLE type (why can't other zines grasp this?)

GIG REVIEW**RANDOM HAND/ LOVE & A 45 - Trillions Jan 09**

Last time I saw Random Hand it was packed - you know there's a credit crunch when even the students are feeling the pinch! Love & a 45 on first, and a better set than their last gig, with more tuneful stuff and less noisy grunge (though they did somewhat bizarrely kick off with one of their worst songs?). Bit of Peacocks admiration going on, the drummer even looked like his Swiss counterpart! As it got towards the end we got a **Heartbreakers** cover which looked like falling to bits at the start but they recovered, followed up with a couple of good punk numbers of their own, and left a contented audience, especially Gordon & DB2 (if ye's hide behind cameras nee one will ever knaa you're poorvoorts!!). Random Hand have a good song called "We're Scum" but apart from that it's all tuneless US 80's type HC (Minir Threat) or equally forgettable formula ska-punk. The guitarist looks like Eddie Izzard doing Rick Wakeman, the bassist the long lost child of Dickie Hammond and the singer jumps around like Ian McKaye when he's not picking up brass instruments. A bit of light entertainment when a 50+ year old alkie who'd been pestering women is evicted by the man mountain bouncer. The singer showed his gratitude for the North, and the venue but music these days is becoming so bland and identikit I was glad to be out of there.

ANTI HIPPIE FANZINE no.5

- contact (for price etc) oibootboy@hotmail.com. This is like an A5 Finnish version of **Oi Warning**. The focus is on new bands etc across the globe. Short pieces on **The Holst**, **DJ Perry**, **Dagger Promotions**, interviews with sussed Slovaks **Cenzura**, Russia's **Moscow Trojan Skinheads** gang (who ruck with Nazis AND Arabs (!!!?!)) and US author **Russ Lippitt**. The reviews, whilst not as brutal as NR, do at least give the reader an idea of whether or not a band is shit. And there's a free 22 track CD, which like all comps, varies in standard. Picks of the bunch being Finland's **The Holst**, **Cenzura**, **The Pauki** (Russia), **Foreign Legion** and Italian band **Prima Linea**. Anti fascist without being political.